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BRIEFS

OAPEC DRYDOCK IN ALGERIA--United Arab Emirates Minister of Petroleum Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah said that a ministerial committee of OAPEC has recommended that a drydock by built for OAPEC in western Algeria. The Emirates News Agency quoted him as saying that the committee, which met under his chairmanship in Bahrain recently, prepared a report which it will submit to a cabinet meeting which OAPEC will hold at its headquarters in Kuwait next May. This report recommends that a drydock be constructed in the Mers El-Kebir area near the Algerian city of Oran. [Text] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Feb 81 p 15] 7587

CSO: 4802

ISLAMIC WORLD POPULATION EXAMINED

Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 25 Jan 81 pp 4,6

[Article by Historian Mahmud Shakir: "Muslims in World"]

[Text] Muslims constitute the second largest population group in the world behind the Christians, with an estimated number of 900 million Muslims. This figure exceeds one fifth the world's population which is more than 4 billions. Most of the Muslims live in the Islamic world territories which comprise more than the world's total area. Thus, the Muslims form so far a figure compatible with the land area they occupy, even though the Muslim population growth exceeds that of any other population group.

More than two thirds the Muslims live at present in adjacent territories known as the Islamic World where Muslims constitute more than 50 percent of the population of any of this world's countries. Thus, the Islamic territories are adjacent whereas one half the Christians, totaling more than 1.25 billion people, lives in Europe and one third in America, with thousands of kilometers of water separating the two continents. The rest of the Christians are distributed over the other continents.

Islamic World's Location

The Islamic world falls within the ancient land and occupies more than one third the territories of Asia, two thirds the territories of Africa and only a small part of Europe extending over Albania, the Volga River basin and the Crimean Peninsula. Islamic territories extend from the Atlantic Ocean west of Africa to the Pacific Ocean east of Asia and from the southern equator and the Indian Ocean to latitude 55 degrees north. This Islamic world is expanding constantly with the spread of Islam. The more people embrace this religion, the vaster the Islamic territories grow. This is because the Islamic world is the world of an idea and not the world of natural borders beyond which it cannot go, as is the case of states with natural borders. At the same time, the Islamic world's territories may, God forbid, recede if the Muslims are afflicted with grave catastrophe, as happened in Andalusia and the Mediterranean Islands centuries ago.

Distribution of Muslim Population

The Islamic world population is estimated currently at 725 million people of whom Muslims constitute more than 79 percent, numbering 659 millions. The rest are minorities living among the Muslims, including Christians, Jews, pagans, Brahmans, Buddhists, Confucians and others. They are minorities with different thought and creed and not a consolidated and harmonious group.

Two thirds the Muslims live in Asia and are distributed over 69 states, most of them independent. The percentage of Muslims in this continent amounts to 27 percent of the population. The reamining third of the Muslims live in Africa and are distributed over 30 states. The Muslims constitute 59 percent of Africa's population and this is why we can say that Africa is a Muslim continent. Twenty million Muslims live in Europe where only Albania is an independent Muslim country. Most of the other Muslims of Europe live in the Volga basin where there are seven autonomous republics tied to Moscow directly. These republics are: Tataria, Baskirya, Udmurt, Mordov, Chuvash, Mari and Orenburg Oblast. This is in addition to the Crimean Peninsula.

Nearly 21 million Christians constituting 6.5 percent of the Islamic world population live with the Muslims and are divided almost equally between Asia and Africa. There are also 6 million Christians living in Muslim European countries.

Three million Jews representing 3 percent of the Islamic world population [sic] also live with the Muslims, two-thirds of them in Asia and the rest in Europe and Africa. The Jews are trying to gather in Palestine which now contains nearly 3 million Jews who have come to it from Europe, America and the Soviet Union and who have supplied it with enormous scientific and financial resources.

Eleven million pagans, two-thirds of them in Africa or the southern part of the Islamic world and the remaining part in southeast Asia, namely Indonesia and Malaysia, also live with the Muslims. They represent 1.2 percent of the Islamic world population.

Thirteen million Brahmans representing 1.5 percent of the Islamic world population also live among the Muslims. They all live in Asia because Africa contains no followers of this religion, unless they are immigrants from southeast Asia.

Seven million Confucians also live with the Muslims. Confucism is the religion of the Chinese and is based on venerating and worshipping forefathers and ancestors. The followers of this religion represent nearly 0.9 percent of the Islamic world population.

There are also 3 million Buddhists and 3 millions who embrace other religions and who altogether constitute 0.3 percent of the Islamic world population. Thus, the Islamic world contains:

Muslims: 659 millions forming 89 percent of the population.

Christians: 23 millions forming 6.5 percent of the population.

Jews: 3 millions forming 0.3 percent of the population.

Pagans: 11 millions forming 1.2 percent of the population.

Brahmans: 13 millions forming 1.5 percent of the population.

Confucians: 7 millions forming 0.9 percent of the population.

Buddhists: 3 millions forming 0.3 percent of the population.

Other religions: 3 millions forming 0.3 percent of the population.

Total: 722 millions 100 percent

Countering these minorities that live in the Islamic world, there are Muslim minorities that live outside its borders, most of them in countries adjacent to the Muslim world. However, political borders have separated these Muslims from their brothers in the Islamic countries.

If the number of non-Muslim minorities in the Islamic world doesn't exceed 80 millions, the number of Muslim minorities outside the Islamic world is more than double this figure, amounting to 162 millions. Most of these minorities live in Asia, especially in China, India, the Philippines and Thailand. There is no country that doesn't contain a number of Muslims. The Muslim minorities in Asia amount to 133 millions and in Africa to 17 millions, most of them in countries adjacent to the Islamic world. The percentage of Muslims is a little more or less than one third the population in each of Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya, Malagasi, Malawi, Burundi, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia and Equatorial Guinea. There are no large minorities in Europe, considering that they do not exceed 7 million Muslims, most of whom live in Yugoslavia where Muslims amount to 15 percent of the population and in Bulgaria where they amount to 14 percent of the population. In America, there are 3 million Muslims distributed over the continent's various countries. Nearly one million Muslims live in Oceania's islands, most of them in Australia.

Muslim Minorities:

The Muslim minorities are divided as follows in the various continents:

133.5 Millions in Asia.
17.5 Millions in Africa.
7 Millions in Europe.
3 Millions in America.
One million in Oceania.

Total: 162 millions.

We must point out that most of these statistics try to underestimate Muslims and their percentage in areas where they are considered minorities. In Asia and Europe, the communist countries try to underestimate the numbers of their Muslim minorities for political reasons. In Africa, this is done so that the Christians may control many of the continent's governments, and it is not in their interest but to underestimate the number of Muslims so that the Christians may continue to be in control. This has been the case with the colonialist countries in Asia and Africa and in every part of the world they occupied.

These Muslim minorities which live outside the Islamic world are considered the first support for the Muslim causes and the mouthpiece of Islam in the countries in which they live, but only inasmuch as they abide by Islam and know its dictates. This leads to our becoming aware of the conditions and problems of these minorities and to supporting their causes intellectually and financially.

The Islamic world is distinguished by the fact that its inhabitants are tied to each other by a single creed, contrary to the followers of other creeds who have major differences among them. There is big disagreement among Christians in religious visualization, on the nature of Christ, in the many gospels, in rituals and in other religious matters. This is in contrast to the Muslims, all of whom believe in one

thought and one creed. The difference between the Sunna and the Shi'ites is almost negligible in comparison to the differences existing between the Catholics, the Orthodox, the Protestants, the Nestorians and so forth. It is true that there are differences between the Shi'ites and the Sunna but they are almost [all] on subsidiary issues. There might be issues that deserve to be examined. However, the people concerned (who conceal their true feelings) hardly speak about these differences. In any case, the Sunna form the overwhelming majority of the Islamic world population, amounting to 93.8 percent of this population whereas the Shi'ites form the remaining 6.2 percent. The Shi'ites are present in Asia only. In Africa, there are no Shi'ites, unless they are immigrants.

The numerous other groups that claim to be Muslim are confined to small parts of the world and do not exceed 3 million in number. Thus, they don't amount to even 0.5 percent of the Muslim population. This figure is usually disregarded. Thus, the Muslim world inhabitants are completely harmonious with each other in religious creed and visualization. Consequently, they are a single nation. A nation is a group of people embracing the same creed.

Language of Muslims:

All the customs and traditions found in the various parts of the Muslim world emanate from the faith and this is why they are the same. Wherever one goes, he finds these customs, with some differences developing with the passage of time. We can add to this that most of the Islamic world population knows the language of the Koran--the language of this population's [holy] book and worship. No worship by any Muslim, regardless of what race he belongs to, is right unless it is in Arabic. This is why the Muslims are eager to learn this language, be it in schools or universities, as a second language or learn it at the hands of tutors, clergymen or in seminaries as the language of religion. This language was the predominant language in all parts of the Islamic world when the Muslims had their role. When national jingoism emerged, each group started to advocate its language, to highlight it and to focus on it in order to retain power. Otherwise, there would have been no need for such languages. When this happened, the Arabic language weakened and lost the position it had been occupying. Yet, the Arabic alphabet continued to be the alphabet used in the languages known in the Islamic world, such as Turkish, Persian, Pushtu in Afghanistan, Urdu in Pakistan and the languages of Indonesia and Malaysia and others. When colonialism dominated the Islamic world intellectually after it had dominated it politically, it worked to replace the Arabic alphabet in a number of languages, the first being Turkish which Mustafa Kemal changed after he had abolished the caliphate. The colonists then became daring and the Dutch changed the Indonesian script and the Russians changed the script of the languages of central Asia, such as Turkomen, Daghistan, Shashan, Circassian and Tatar. Other languages still use Arabic script to this day, such as the language of south Philippine, (Patani), Urdu, Pushtu and Persian.

Role of Islamic History

In addition to language, there is the Islamic history which is appreciated and respected by all inhabitants of the Islamic world and which is taught in all parts of this world. Moreover, each Islamic country teaches the history of Islam's entry into its lands. All this creates the strongest bonds that draw the Muslims of the world close to each other.

Islam believes that all mankind comes from the same origin, beginning with the creation of Adam. After Adam, people spread and scattered in the earth and were affected by the environment which gave them colors according to its temperature. The environment also affected man's physique, giving him special features and characteristics. Each group's language then developed according to the objects existing in its environment, giving these objects special names by which they came to be exclusively known. With this group distribution, the presently known colors, races, peoples and languages came into existence.

Races in Islamic World

The Islamic world includes a number of races, colors and peoples. Islam is not confined to one race, one color or one people to the exclusion of others. It includes all people. It does not discriminate between one group and another and does not favor one group over another. Islam rejects all the color, language, racial and wealth differences emanating from the environment.

The Islamic world includes caucasians who live in southwest Asia, North Africa and the Caucasus, Moguls who live in southeast and central Asia and Turkey and negroes who live in equatorial and tropical Africa.

The Islamic world also contains Arians who live in Afghanistan, Iran and the Caucasus. Semitic peoples live in southwest Asia and North Africa. Hamitic peoples live in East Africa and small parts of North Africa.

Several colors are found in the Islamic world. Black is the color of negroes, yellow is the color of Moguls and white is the color of the other groups.

Numerous peoples and races are members of the Islamic world, including Arabs, Turks, Moguls, Persians, Indians, Malaysians, Fulani, Hausa, Bantu, Ethiopians, Mandinga and many others. These peoples and races have mingled with each other because Islam is what unites them. No Arab is better than a non-Arab, unless by piety and no white is better than a black, unless by piety.

Because Islam is founded on equality, it fights the idea of war between nations, of conflict between the east and the west, of fighting among races and of struggle among peoples. Islam calls for jihad, which is fighting against tyranny, oppression and obstruction of the religious call and of religious freedom. Therefore, Islam is remote from the conflicts that have erupted or that are still erupting in the name of the west and the east and from the conflicts that have taken place among nations. Islam is not Semitic and not white. It is for all peoples and it refuses to involve its followers in this maelstorm, as some historians like to do so that the westerners may oppose Islam, the Arians may fight it and the negroes may stay away from it.

In addition to its belief in equality among people, Islam also honors man, regardless of his race, color or creed--"and We have honored the children of Adam, have (spread) them on land and on the sea, we have given them the good things and have favored them over many of Our creatures." God has put man on this earth to build it and to exploit its riches and has put everything in this universe at the service of man so that he may perform his duty.

Islam offers goodness to all mankind. It prohibits that which is illicit and that which harms people, such as monopolization, adulteration and usury. It also prohibits pauperism. This is why there should be no unemployment. The state is responsible for unemployment and must deal with it, either by finding work and providing work incentives or by banning idleness, imposing penalties on idle people and pursuing them. The Islamic state may interfere and direct some of the work activities for the good of the nation and of mankind generally.

[Shi'ites in Islamic World]

Iran	21	Millions	64	Percent
Pakistan	7	"	10	"
Iraq	5	"	40	"
(Tajekstan)	3	"	98	"
Yemen	2	"	35	"
Other Countries	3	"		

Total number of Shi'ites in Islamic world is 41 millions forming 6.2 percent of the population.

Total number of Sunna in Islamic world is 618 millions forming 93.8 percent of the population.

Total number of Muslims in the Islamic world is 659 millions.

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WOUNDED AFGHAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS INTERVIEWED

Lahore WEEKLY CHATTAN in Urdu 9 Feb 81 pp 10-12

[Article: "What Crime Are They Punished For?"]

[Text] The Soviet Union established its dominance over Hungary in 1956 by sending in its forces under the Soviet expansionist policy. In 1968 the Russians attacked Czechoslovakia by sending in 500,000 of their soldiers for the sake of satisfying their adventurism. Perhaps this too was not enough to satisfy the military adventurism of this superpower, and that's why on December 27, 1979 it landed more than 150,000 regular soldiers into Afghanistan under the pretext of an "outside intervention" in that country. After Sadar Daud's assassination, Noor Mohammed Taraki seized power. He was himself responsible for his downfall. Babrak Karmal took control of the "Peoples House" by riding the Russian tanks. The Mujahidin, who were already fighting the forces of Noor Mohammed Taraki and Hafizulla Amin, became even more fierce with the advent of the Russian Bear on their land. Popular sentiment against Russian military intervention continued to spread throughout the country to such an extent that even the Afghan children began to fight against the Russians--to preserve their national freedom, elderly people, women and children joined the struggle of the Mujahidin.

This is why the Russian Bear, who considered Afghanistan to be an easy "morsel" just like Czechoslovakia and Hungary, has been forced to pay a high price for its intervention in Afghanistan. Afghan Mujahidin have been sacrificing their lives in order to protect their country's sovereignty. Every area of the country has witnessed their valour. They have routed, even though unarmed, that power which is many times their strength. Now, after a long guerrilla war of one year, the rulers of Moscow have begun to wonder whether their intervention in Afghanistan has been a grave mistake.

Readers, today we are introducing you to some of those Afghan freedom fighters who have been seriously injured while fighting on different fronts against the Russian soldiers, and have arrived in Pakistan. Every part of these freedom fighters' wounded bodies is a testimony of Russian cru Some of them are hospitalized in a number of hospitals in Lahore. In Al Mansu. , workers of "Tehrik e Islami" have been looking after them for a long time.

Afghan freedom fighter Sayyada Khan is from Jalalabad. Twenty-six year old Mr Khan told us that there are 19 members in his family. When he was fighting on the Sakharuf front against the enemy, his knee was wounded by the bullets fired from machineguns. He said he had crossed the Pakistani border 10 months ago. Since then he has been under medical treatment from several doctors, but thus far he has not been cured. He said that the most important highways and routes are under the Mujahidin's control.

This is why the Russian and Afghan government soldiers do not dare to operate through the highways. They have to depend upon their helicopters. He said that the Russians have descended to such a cruel level that they are not only killing women, children and elderly people but also exterminating any living thing by dropping gaseous bombs, and poisonous gases. He also said that if 20 of the fighters attain martyrdom, they send 200 Russians to hell in exchange. He said: "We make bombs from the bombs dropped by the Russians." In this context, he narrated an incident in which Commander Adamkhan and 13 other people were killed due to an explosion when the commander tried to dismantle a bomb. He said six of the victims' bodies were blown to pieces.

Twenty-four year old Abdur-Razak comes from a farmer's family in Ghazni. He was wounded by a bullet during a fight in Qirabagh. For the past several months he has been going to a number of Lahore hospitals for treatment. He said Muslim countries should help Afghan freedom fighters with military aid. He said they need some active help instead of paying lip service of aid promises. He said that if the freedom fighters keep on fighting the Russians without being properly equipped with arms, the day will come when all Mujahidin will have died. The reason is that they are fighting against a world superpower equipped with all kinds of modern weapons. To fight against Russia, eventhough a spirit of martyrdom is imperative, one needs guns and rifles too.

One other landholder from Ghazni, Mr Abdul Quddus, was injured at a Ghazni front while fighting against Russians 18 months ago. When he was brought here from the front one of his legs had to be amputated. But now he is not under any treatment. He said he has been in Mansurah for several months but has not received any treatment from the government hospitals. He also stated that Afghan women are fighting side by side with Afghan Mujahidin against the enemy. He said women are busy bringing food and other help to the men.

A farmer from Kanduz, Abdul Alim was wounded by bullets 18 months ago while fighting against the enemy. He has been paralyzed due to the injury. The bullets are still in his body. But the negligence of government hospitals has been such that he hasn't been treated as yet. He said that: "In spite of all the adversities we are still fighting the enemy because we are fighting for God's religion and hence, God willing, the victory will be ours."

Abdurrahman of Bagram was brought to Peshawar 1 year ago after he was injured in the fighting. He had been seriously injured in the area of his buttocks. After being treated in Peshawar he was operated upon in Lahore's Mayo Hospital, and is still hospitalized.

He said: "From the time the Russians set their unclean feet on our land we have been fighting against them in spite of being unarmed. And, we will continue this crusade until the day when every Russian leaves Afghanistan."

Abdussalam in Lowgar, who is a mechanic, was injured while fighting in his hometown against the enemy. His backbone has been broken due to a gunshot wound. He said the Pakistani government is doing everything in its power to help Afghan freedom fighters and that other Islamic nations, too, should assist them even more than that.

A resident of Ward, Abdul Hannan is a high school graduate. One year ago, he was seriously injured in fighting when his body was riddled with fourteen bullets. His hands, neck, every part of his body is a reminder of the Russian cruelty. His family members are still in Afghanistan. After being injured he stayed with his parents for a month and then came to Pakistan alone. He said he has absolutely no news about his parents. He said: "All the people, from children to older people have taken part in Afghanistan's freedom movement and I too have joined it in the same spirit.

Rehaman Jan, a mechanic and a driver from Lowgar, was wounded some 18 months ago at the Lowgar front. His wife and children are in Afghanistan. His right leg has been amputated after sustaining serious injury during the fighting. He has come to Pakistan alone. He said that the Soviet Union has been able to control a few cities due to its military strength but that Mujahidin rule most of the rural areas. On every front the freedom fighters have the upper hand. With their guerrilla technique, the Mujahidin create confusion in the enemy camps. Except for military installations and camps, the Mujahidin control 80 percent of the land. Now, even the Russians have realized that they have been paying a very high price for their aggression on Afghanistan.

Moulavi Abdul Ghafur was taking care of the religious duties and teaching at Shakurdah. He is from Parvan. When the moulavi began to arouse people and urged them to participate in the holy crusade (Jihad), the Afghan government began raiding the area to arrest him. In order to avoid arrest, he crossed the border into Pakistan. He said that in the end, the victory will be with the believers of Islam.

Mr Hiqqai, a resident of Parvan, was a third year student of electronics in Kabul's Technical College. He resisted the government's efforts to pursuade him to become a Khalq party member. The government wanted to arrest him because of his revolutionary activities but he escaped to Pakistan. He said that he has read Moulana Moududi's "Works in the Pushtu language." He said that he was impressed with the teachings of Sayyad Qutub Shahid. He also said that the Afghan Mujahidin are fighting to preserve Islam's highest goals. Mr Ibrahim was seriously injured on the Ghazni front. He lost an arm, his jaw was broken, and he was shot in the leg. Fifteen days after being injured he was still in Afghanistan, but was later brought to Pakistan. He said: "We are confident that in the end the Mujahidin will be the victors and they will free our land."

Jaiburrahman of Akbari College was wounded while attacking Paktia airport. When eight Mujahidin attacked the airport at 0230 am, two of them attained martyrdom. Others were injured--their legs wounded by bullets. Last year, the, came to Pakistan and have been undergoing medical treatment. They belong to the "Harkate Inqilabi" group. He emphasized that all the groups should unite to fight the enemy.

CSO: 4909

NUMBER, EDUCATIONAL LEVEL, STATUS OF NATION'S DIPLOMATS REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jan 81 p 3

/Article by Mahmud Mu'awwad: "A Special AL-AHRAM Investigation into the Egyptian Diplomatic Service in Facts and Figures: The Diplomatic Community"/

/Text/ Perhaps it would be appropriate, now that the country is organizing the community of people working in the diplomatic and consular corps - who play an important, decisive role in carrying out Egypt's foreign policy for us to learn everything about the people who represent us abroad. They number 282 diplomats and consuls, of whom just 55 are women. They are all working in positions of ambassador at large, ambassador, minister plenipotentiary, counsellor (consul general), first secretary (second consul), second secretary (assistant consul), third secretary (vice-consul), and attache. Half of the people who occupy the positions of minister plenipotentiary and counsellor (consul general), just line diplomats, were appointed between 1978 and 1980, while the number of people occupying the position of third secretary increased in 1 year, from 24 in 1979 to 43 in 1980, and the number of people occupying the position of second secretary dropped from 154 to 131.

The study which Dr Hasan Tawfiq, head of the Central Organization and Management Agency, presented to Dr Sufi Abu Talib, chairman of the People's Assembly, states that there are 2,625 administrators assisting the 282 diplomats, which means that every member of the diplomatic service is served by three employees and that there are 11 administrative employees each for each employee in the diplomatic service, while the share of male employees in the diplomatic service does not exceed two /per member/.

Just 2.2 percent of the diplomats have received graduate credentials - exceptional studies in diplomacy, master's degrees or doctoral degrees - and no diplomat has received intermediate credentials except for one ambassador who received a diploma in supplementary commercial studies; this certification is now treated as university credential.

Commercial and economic degrees occupy first place in the ranks of diplomats who have not received university degrees; they account for 38.2 percent. It is to be noted that the people holding these credentials are distributed in a reasonable fashion, to strengthen their ability to occupy positions in the diplomatic and consular corps in the future. They are followed by people with law degrees who

account for 33.5 percent, although it is to be observed that 71 percent of these occupy the positions of counsellor and minister plenipotentiary, 20 percent of them are in positions of ambassador and ambassador at large, and the rest are in the position of first secretary. Therefore, it is expected that this group's weight will decline in coming years.

Just 2 Percent Have Received Graduate Degrees

The group of people with degrees in literature and social sciences comes in third place, with 15.1 percent. Nonetheless, their distribution is organized, in a manner which will help them continue and become more important in the future. This is followed by the group of people with military credentials, totalling 7.8 percent; none of the people who have received these have received graduate degrees although they are concentrated in the highest positions, where we find that 98 percent of them occupy positions of minister plenipotentiary, ambassador and ambassador at large, accounting for 20, 46 and 32 percent, respectively.

There then comes the group of police credentials, in fifth place, with 3.1 percent of all people occupying positions of first secretary and above. It is to be noted that there is no regularity in diplomatic positions in the case of this group; as a result, it is expected that it will not continue to occupy these positions.

The people working in the diplomatic and consular corps range from 33 to 61 in age; of these people, 229 are less than 45 years old, 499 are less than 53 years old, and 157 are more than 53 years old. There is one person occupying the rank of ambassador at large whose age is not shown; he was transferred from the Ministry of Defense and the data on him was not known up to the preparation of this study.

The lowest average age, which is in the lowest position, first secretary, is 40.2 years, while the highest average, which is in the position of ambassador at large, the highest of these positions, is 58.1 years. The difference between them is 17.9 years. It has been observed that no great change has occurred in the average age of persons working in 1980 from those working in 1979 and 1978, except in the position of counsellor; there are minor differences in the other positions.

Lowest Average Age Is 40

The study reveals that there is a strong connection between age and position among these employees, in the sense that the older the employee becomes the higher his position is, and the converse is true. The value of this connection, according to the Pierson connection coefficient, is 78 percent. The rates of concentration differ from position to position, ranging from 83.3 percent in the position of ambassador at large to 59.4 percent in the position of first secretary. The study also reveals that the lowest average service is to be found in the lowest of these positions, totalling 16.9 years, while the greatest service period average is to be found at the peak of these positions, totalling 38.1 years - 21.2 years more than the equivalent in the lowest positions.

The study anticipates that 105 of the people working in the diplomatic and consular corps, or 16 percent of the total, will be transferred to retirement, including 20

ambassadors at large, or 83 percent of the total occupying this position; 75 percent of the ambassadors at large will be retired in 1981 and one third of them will be transferred to retirement in 1980. In addition the number of ambassadors it is expected will be retired will be 57 by 1985, of whom 20 will be retired in 1980 and 1981 and 75 percent by 1983. Of the ministers plenipotentiary, 23 will be retired in 1984 and more than two thirds by 1985. None will be retired in 1981.

Transfers to retirement in the case of counsellors will be concentrated in 1983 and 1984; these are just five in number. No first secretary will reach retirement age by 1985.

The Proportion of People Retiring Is Increasing

It is to be noted that the proportion of people who are expected to be transferred to retirement is highest in the highest positions and drops farther down we go in the diplomatic and consular corps, disappearing entirely in the position of first secretary.

The study states that people who have military credentials and are working in positions of minister plenipotentiary or counsellor will not be transferred to retirement in this period, whereas three quarters of the people retiring are people working in the position of ambassador at large who possess military credentials. How was this study, which the chairman of the assembly is to submit to the Foreign Relations Committee, so that the latter may make a report on it to the assembly, prepared?

Dr Hasan Tawfiq, chairman of the Central Organization and Management Agency, says "In preparing this study (which has been made for the first time, in the case of this sector), the agency has committed itself to making a comprehensive survey of all the people working in the diplomatic and consular corps. Two forms were prepared. The first bears on the organizational chart for all people occupying positions in the two corps, from the position of attache to the highest position (ambassador at large); this contains numerical data on the positions included in the budget which have been filled, people who are actually working and people who are not working. The second bears on people working at leadership levels in the position of first secretary and above, and this contains the following most important data on each investigation unit: name, date of birth, academic credentials, date of acquisition of credentials, year of entry into service for the first time, current position, date the position was attained, salary and monthly allowance."

Dr Hasan Twafiq goes on to say, "These forms have been sent to the Foreign Ministry and have been reviewed. Forms which were incomplete have been filled out in order to achieve the objectives of this study." He also says that its goal is to assist in the adoption of proper decisions regarding employees on whose shoulders lie the task of carrying out the government's foreign policy.

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CSO: 4802

EFFECTS OF DISCIPLINE LAWS, SOCIAL SERVICES REFORM DISCUSSED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Feb 81 pp 67-70

[Interview with Jihan al-Sadat by Nash'at al-Taghlibi; in Cairo: "Jihan al-Sadat Tells AL-HAWADITH, 'The Discipline Laws Did Not Reduce Congestion and Did Not Increase Production; They Saved the People from Noise' "]

[Text] My defense of my master's thesis on television was deliberate; Ahmad Baha' al-Din was one of the first to admire it.
The S.O.S. villages for children as a substitute for orphanages represent an experiment that has been proven successful in Egypt.

Before the interview with Mrs Jihan al-Sadat began, a curious, yet meaningful incident occurred. A waiter came carrying a tray with two cups of coffee. When I extended my hand to take one of the cups, the waiter called my attention to the fact that the cup which I was about to take had no sugar and that the other cup had the right amount of sugar. I told myself, he did not ask me at the outset how I drink my coffee, so he brought two kinds. I picked up the other cup, and I discovered that that cup had the sugarless coffee. So I told myself, the waiter probably made a mistake. When Mrs Jihan arrived, she took the other cup. No sooner did she start sipping her coffee than she exclaimed, "I don't know why waiters put large amounts of sugar in the coffee!" I laughed and said, "The sugarless coffee must have been for you, and I am the one who drank it." She [too] laughed in turn, and she began talking about the secret as to why some societies add more sugar in their coffee and tea.

This was not the first time for us to meet. Our first meeting took place in 1974. On that day she told me the story of her life, and it was obvious that she was relating it for the first time. She seemed happy with what she was relating. We dealt with matters in our interview that I expected she would refuse to respond to, but she answered clearly and candidly.

At this interview my first question was: What is new in the area of your activities since 1974?

[Answer] My goodness! This is a long time! If I wanted to enumerate my activities, I would never end. However, the women of Egypt should be proud of the fact that they obtained 32 seats in the People's Assembly. This in itself is a major victory. Women also obtained five seats in local councils on the level of the governorates. This too is a major victory. There is of course the Personal Status Law which is one of the things for which we have been striving for years, perhaps since the days of Huda Sha'rawi. We thank God that we got this law just as we had hoped we would. Although some women think that the law was not fair to them, I consider it a major and a significant step. At the same time we must learn that we should not ask for more than what the environment in which we grew up and the traditions that had marked our lives would permit. We should not try to imitate others. I personally think that women in many western countries are still asking for the rights that Egyptian women have today. In my judgment this is a tremendous accomplishment. Of course I want everything that is good for women. But our circumstances, our environment and our traditions, make it incumbent upon us also to respect many things and not to ask for more of them. There have been numerous accomplishments in the area of social activities, such as the villages for orphaned children. These are new; that is, they did not exist before 1974. Today we have a village that is ready in Cairo; there is one in Alexandria; and I laid the cornerstone of a third in al-Gharbiyah. After that I will inaugurate a village in Upper Egypt. And so on: whenever a village is completed, we move on to another one. We borrowed the system of these villages from abroad so that a child's sense of his being an orphan is replaced by his sense of [having] a family. This is very important. There are numerous orphanages in Egypt for orphans, but they are all merely schools or shelters where the children get food and clothing, but they miss the sense of family affection and the bond between family members. Under the new system we divided the S.O.S. Orphans' Villages into small homes. Each one of these homes would have eight children and a mother who is not actually their mother, but she [is an individual] who was trained to be a homemaker. That person would have had courses in psychology and in homemakeing, such as sewing and other [homemaking arts]. The children she looks after are of various ages because a mother would not give birth to 8 children in 1 year. The truth is that the small age differences [between the children] and the fact that boys and girls have each others' company provides them with a sense of fraternity and of [belonging to] one family. In addition, the presence of the mother is a common denominator that makes life normal. She is the one who cares for them, [prepares] their food and selects their clothes just like any mother would. She receives an allowance for each child, and she spends from that allowance under the supervision of the village director. We have approved the principle of preparing the mothers while the village is being built. When we begin work to set up a village, we begin training the mothers to take care of the children. We also established a [system of] aunts who take the mothers' place when the mothers are sick or go on vacation. Thus the children would not stay alone. I am happy with this system, especially since it has succeeded. It is its success that has led me to wonder why we do not replace the orphanages with a system of orphans' villages?

[Question] The success of such a project depends on the success of those who are working in it. It may be that the difficult task [here] is that of forcing the feelings of motherhood on a young woman who has not experienced motherhood or on one who has been denied that experience. Have you been able to provide an adequate number of women who are capable of playing the role of mothers?

[Answer] I believe that we've been able to do that as much as possible. We do not require exemplary [performance] in everything, but we hope for success. The mothers are under constant supervision, and they have training courses every few months. There are volunteers among my friends who are good homemakers and who go to the mothers in the villages. They sit with them and guide them indirectly in [ways of] dealing with the children. The mothers accept the guidance and the instruction without feeling sensitive about this. [But] I usually make preparations for these visits. I notify the mothers that I will send them my friends so they could take advantage of their experiences. I tell them that I do not feel embarrassed when I mingle with those whose standing is higher than mine so I could gain from them. A person continues to learn from the date of his birth until he dies. What matters is the fact that we've established a strong bond between mothers, female and male civil servants and children, and that bond has made us one family. Sometimes we raise our voices and we argue during the meetings of the board of directors, but this happens in the interests of the village and the children. I am intent on this bond, and we are always trying to upgrade it.

[Question] What role do the women's societies play in the area of building up people? Building up people [is a task that] requires time, effort and staff. Survival cannot be accomplished by a decision. It is people who build people, and what is important is to provide for building up people.

[Answer] In my judgment, interest in children is the most important step in building up people. I cannot build up a person who is 50 or 40 years old. I may reform him, but I do not build him up. Building up a person begins at childhood, at an early age. This is what we are focusing on. We thank God that last year was the [International] Year of the Child which gave us a strong push, not only in Egypt, but in the whole world. I was honored by the fact that I chaired the International Relations Committee of the Supreme Council on Childhood. This committee supervised the remaining committees and followed up on the implementation of their decisions. We used to meet once a month, and we are still doing so. We are pursuing follow-up work in every ministry. This is important. Take, for example, the Ministry of Education which has done and is still doing a great deal for children. There are small things, but their significance is considerable. There is illiteracy in our country, and, accordingly, there is a large ratio of drop-outs in the elementary schools either because the schools are few or because of the harsh circumstances in some of the governorates. The Ministry of Education has put into effect [a program to serve] a meal in the remote schools so it can attract the children to the schools. In this way it reduced the semi-drop-out [rate]. Then it set up buildings up to the level of a single classroom. The Ministry of

Health has also made a tremendous effort in combating the paralysis and dehydration that affect children throughout the republic. Then we began building the Abu al-Rish Hospital for children which accommodates more than 200 beds. The Ministry of Social Affairs established a very large number of day-care centers and set up clubs for women. The designation, "clubs," here is figurative since clubs are unknown in rural areas. The fact is that these clubs are more like organizations where the women can display the jams, syrups, pickles and other products they make. These [activities] take up their time in useful things and provide them with some profit. Also one of the most important accomplishments of the Ministry of Social Affairs has been [the establishment of] working women's centers in the cities and villages. The function of these centers is to make the task of the working woman--whether she be a physician, an engineer or a civil servant--easier. She can stop by the center on her way home and pick up her vegetables cooked or she can place an order for a special dish for which she pays the cost [since the center] makes no profit. In addition, clothes may be ironed, tailored, mended or sewn at the centers. All these tasks usually double the working woman's burden. These centers serve the working woman on every level in a manner that is suitable to the environment and to the nature of women. And they also provide tranquillity and stability in the home.

[Question] Are there no private organizations in Egypt?

[Answer] No. All the organizations are subject to the Ministry of Social Affairs. However, they are self-supporting. For example, a society must obtain a permit before it can solicit contributions. [This is required] to ensure that no errors are made and no exploitation takes place. There is individual effort, and the Ministry of Social Affairs undertakes the supervision [of such efforts]. It does not provide the organizations with everything they need for their spending; it only provides part of what they need. We provide the rest through our own efforts by means of charitable bazaars, parties or others means.

[Question] This is in fact an honorable effort. But in the final analysis a child who is not an orphan receives his basic upbringing at home. It is in the home that a person's upbringing begins. If we were to take one aspect of living such as medical treatment, for example, we would find that it is the person with means who can go into a hospital and obtain the treatment [he needs]. Those who do not have the means are often thrown out of hospitals or suffer a great deal before receiving any care. Even medication is denied to them. This discrepancy in treatment gives rise to a kind of class hatred in those people, and they pass that hatred on to their children. Do women play a role in treating [this problem] from a humanitarian standpoint?

[Answer] You know, of course, that there are free hospitals, but quite frankly the standard of services there is not what it should be. This is a situation we all acknowledge and do not deny. In my capacity as president of the Red Crescent Organization I stated in our monthly meetings

that I was not satisfied with the role of the Red Crescent in peace time. In the time of war we [converged] on the hospitals--men, women and students--but in the time of peace, we are not making any effort to speak of even though our government hospitals need this advanced effort to raise the standard of services. I became aware of this and of our role in hospitals and in public services during peace time a few months ago, especially, as they say, regarding the poor, needy patient. This is because a person who has the means does not need the assistance. We chose for Dr Zaynab al-Subki, who represents the electoral district of Shubra in the People's Assembly, the hospital that used to be called Kitchener Hospital. I told her, "You manage the affairs of this hospital and try to raise its standards." Faydah Kamil took over the affairs of another hospital in the district of al-Khalifah. Dr Farakhandah Hasan took over the affairs of the Umm al-Misriyyin Hospital in al-Jizah. That is, we distributed the female members of parliament [to the hospitals], each one in her district. On the one hand, each one is serving her district; and on the other hand, the people of the district feel that she is successful, helping, contributing and raising the standard of services. As president of the Red Crescent Organization I announced that I can provide support to the hospitals within moderate limits and within my capabilities. I cannot spend as much as the Ministry of Health does, but if a hospital were to need an X-ray device, for example, whose cost is 10,000 or 20,000 pounds, this would be possible. The management of the hospital would thus feel that the function of the female volunteers is not confined to the traditional services of cooking, feeding and cleaning, but that they also contribute to [providing] the necessary furnishings. Here is a simple example. At the Shubra Hospital even the bed sheets were provided by the female volunteers who raised the money for the sheets among themselves, and the Red Crescent completed some of the other furnishings. The women do not interfere in the medical treatment so that there would be no duplication. Instead, they organized everything: meals are organized and served at specific times, and cleanliness has become comprehensive. Today, the hospitals are beginning to come to us and to ask us to work there. We began expanding our activities as much as we can. I sent to all the governorates to bring the women together so we would begin with one hospital where the volunteers would go and make every effort to improve services. I told them, "If you need anything, let me know immediately." God willing, I will go to all the governorates as I did in Aswan.

[Question] I am finding serious shortcomings in the work of ministries despite your praise for their work. I will cite a well-known example. The Ministry of Health, especially in a growing country that has adopted an open-door policy after having had a harsh closed-door policy, is not supposed to have [sic] any kind of supervision over medical treatment. But what people are noticing now is that whenever prices rise, services deteriorate. The physician who has raised his fees three or five times [what they were] continues to say when faced with an emergency case that he cannot treat that case before 15 or 20 days at least.

[Answer] You may be referring to a well-known physician. He is under tremendous pressure.

[Question] No. This is a common situation.

[Answer] Is it reasonable?

[Question] It is reasonable to the point that people have grown accustomed to it.

[Answer] There may be some exaggeration. A physician is supposed to have humane feelings above all else.

[Question] Furthermore, a patient would get an appointment on a certain day and at a certain hour, and he would brace himself and go to the doctor's office to avoid paying a double fee. But then he finds himself compelled to wait 1 or 2 hours after the designated time. It is known that most physicians refuse to give appointments by telephone and insist that the patient come to the office and pay the fee or an advance [portion of the] fee in advance.

[Answer] This may be because the pressure of patients is great. But let me put before you another picture. Dr Hashim Fu'ad, the dean of the College of Medicine at al-Qasr al-'Ayni entered the al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital one night unexpectedly to look over the work of the physicians in residence. He asked one of them about the names of the patients in his ward, and the physician did not know a single name. Dr Hashim asked him, "How long have you been here?" The resident physician replied, "A few months." Dr Hashim told him, "You've been here a few months and you don't know the names of your patients? Then you are not taking care of them." Dr Hashim then discovered other forms of negligence, and he asked the physician to stay home until he received his orders of transfer to the rural areas. This is what the dean of a college and a well-known physician did. After the incident everything was straightened out in the hospital.

[Question] If such a measure were repeated, many matters would be straightened out.

[Answer] To be fair we must acknowledge that the pressures are great and the capabilities few. Conditions in the hospitals are difficult. Almost all the beds are occupied, and in the offices the physicians work beyond their capacity. But on the other hand I imagine that the effort that has been made in recent years confirms the fact that we want to do something and that we want to raise our standards.

[Question] Sensing the need to raise standards is in itself a great thing that becomes greater if it is translated into action that is based on objective study. Let us take another example: the discipline laws. These laws are not new; they are in use in many parts of the western world. In Egypt the primary purpose of these laws was to reduce congestion in the streets, but the congestion was not reduced for a simple reason. When we prohibit cars from parking alongside the wide streets downtown, we must find an alternative for them. What did happen, [however], was that parking

was prohibited without providing an alternative. That is, we began at the end. On the other hand, the worker in the Third World differs from the worker in the developed world. It is true that the European worker goes to work at 9 a.m. and ends his work at 5 p.m., but he works continuously during the work period and he produces. The worker in our country usually comes to work after the designated time and then needs coffee and tea [before he begins to work]. Furthermore, he does not have the technical tools that help him complete his work quickly. The result of that is that his production drops and the employer's revenue declines, so the latter is compelled to increase his prices in order to balance his income [with his increased costs]. Ultimately, we find that it is the consumer alone who pays the price.

[Answer] Why don't you say that the stores which used to open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. did not produce more than they are producing now? The truth is that there can be no real work for 14 hours. A person cannot endure this long period of continuous work.

[Question] There are those who are used to producing a certain quantity [of goods or services] over a long period of time.

[Answer] The discipline has cut down on working hours, and it may also cut down on the work itself, without causing a decline in production. The fact is that everything is difficult at first until we get used to it, especially since our people have not been accustomed to order and discipline. Our people, as described by some, are rebellious people. They rebel first, and then they become accustomed [to the change]. Discipline was only introduced in the interests of the worker. Instead of having the worker go home at midnight, he [now] goes home at 6 p.m. He goes to bed early; he wakes up [feeling] energetic; and his production improves. At any rate there will be an evaluation of the discipline. I am not saying that it has been 100 percent successful, but it did at least save the people from the noise, especially the noise of loudspeakers which used to cause a major disturbance. Some conservative people used to think it embarrassing to prohibit [the use of] loudspeakers especially if they are used in connection with a religious occasion. But resepct for religion is one thing and using religion to hurt [others] is another. If the Koran is recited, we must listen and pay attention to it. If the Koran is recited when I am half asleep, I cannot pay attention to it as well as I should. This would be a transgression. Then there are people who are sick and people who are studying and who need quiet. Discipline has been successful from this aspect.

[Question] This subject leads to another subject that attracts one's attention, and that is the phenomenon of the widespread use of the veil.

[Answer] This subject in particular was the subject of a debate [that took place] not too long ago. Of course this may be considered a strange phenomenon. We as Muslims, and I as a Muslim, advocate that every person cling to his religion without narrow-mindedness or fanaticism. This is in

fact a problem; there are actions that are quite remote from religion. One suddenly finds a person engaged in conduct that appears to be pious, but he is in fact free from religion. I am one of those people who like to please God in everything they do and in their appearance as well. For example, I do not wear a sleeveless dress and then say I am a Muslim. It is true that the world is changing, but a person's clothing must be dignified. One must not wear clothing that is revealing or stern. I cannot wear long clothing and then ride the bus or have business that requires me to move about a great deal so I drag my clothes and stumble over them. This would not be practical. What is important is that I feel that my conduct commands respect for me in the atmosphere in which I work, either through my conduct, my work or my clothing. Furthermore, narrow-mindedness is a characteristic of the backward nations not the advanced nations or those that are striving for progress. At any rate the phenomenon of the veil is evident, and it may be the effect of what happened in Iran.

[Question] I believe that the Iranian effect is a minor one. When the state proclaims the slogan of knowledge and faith, such a slogan may provide a few fanatics with the opportunity to push faith to its limits and even beyond its limits, especially since the media in turn are contributing [to the situation] with a kind of narrow-mindedness [of their own]. For example, it has been noticed that television is becoming interested in presenting religious series. Presenting these religious series is a double-edged sword especially if the production capabilities are not available. Thus, because of television's constant need for programs, it may find itself without the scope for making a choice, and the result is that what television presents mostly gives a poor image of Muslims and an inaccurate image of Islam. Many people, for example, prefer to hear a rational and a sane statement from al-Shaykh Mitwalli Sha'rawi than to hear a number of dilettantes who take from religion only what is superficial and never delve into its substance because they are practically ignorant of that substance.

[Answer] You are right. Selection is very important. I believe that the secret of al-Shaykh Sha'rawi's success is due to his open-mindedness and to the fact that he is well-informed. At any rate the phenomenon in general may be the result of wars and defeats and pressing economic conditions. That is, it may be a reaction to crises. When a person is faced with a crisis, he finds no one else to turn to but God. As a nation we have experienced numerous crises. It is not strange that we find some fanaticism and narrow-mindedness and that we go overboard occasionally. But as long as our direction is sound, piety will continue to be [a feeling] emanating from the heart and the mind, not from fanaticism.

[Question] Did you begin your studies at the university by specializing in Arabic or English literature?

[Answer] Arabic literature. I graduated from the Arabic Language Department.

[Question] What made you choose the British poet, Shelly, as the subject of your master's thesis?

[Answer] When I began thinking about presenting a master's thesis and then a doctoral dissertation, I looked around me in the department and I found professors in ancient literature and a whole generation after me, whereas there was a shortage in English-Arabic comparative literature. I wanted to specialize in that branch to prove myself, especially since I have a background in the English language that would help me in this task. Graduates of the Arabic Language Department are usually not proficient in another language to be able to study it in depth. In order to study Shelley, I must know everything about Keats and Byron and other poets of the second Romantic School [of poets] who were contemporaries of Shelley. In order to understand the second school of Romantic poets I must know Wordsworth, Coleridge and [Walter] Savage [Landor]. In order to understand British Romanticism and its effects on Egyptian Romanticism, I must know [something] about German and French Romanticism: how they began; how they developed; their effects on British Romanticism or their ties to it; and the effect of all this on the al-Diwan School and the Egyptian poets. The fact is that I wanted comparative literature because we did not have anybody else in the department [in that field] except Dr Suhayr al-Qalamawi who is basically a professor of criticism, but she teaches English-Arabic comparative literature.

[Question] Allow me to ask you a candid question. If you were not the wife of the president, would your defense of your master's thesis, which lasted 2 hours and 15 minutes, have been broadcast on television?

[Answer] Of course not. But let me tell you something. I read what THE TIMES wrote about this point in particular. However, the newspaper ignored the basic subject. Ever since I became a student I have always been accused of receiving help. Every professor who teaches me faces the traditional question, "Is it possible that she is first [in her class]? Is it possible that she obtained the grade, excellent?" These questions in themselves are accusations that have almost caused me to have a complex. When I had the opportunity, the simplest answer [to such questions] that occurred to me was to say, "Compare a woman of my age and my experience and everything that she has experienced in her life with a student who is my children's age and who sits with me [in class]. Is it possible that my grasp of the lessons would be the same as his? Without being biased in my own favor and without being vain, it is inevitable that my grasp [of things] would be superior. It would be impossible for me with my experiences to be on the same level as a student who has never left Cairo, who has not seen the world and who did not read the large number of books that I read at least because of my age. Of course I excelled throughout the period of my studies. When I graduated I was supposed to be appointed an instructor, but I chose this course and I am happy with it because I find fulfillment in it. I work in the field of social services, and I believe that this field is beneficial to my country. But on the other hand, I want to acquire more knowledge. I want to learn in the proper way.

I could have had teachers come to my home and improve the level of my education, and the matter would have ended there. But I was intent on beginning at the beginning and on feeling that I was a student taking things one step at a time. Whenever somebody asked, "Is this possible? Surely they are helping her!" I would say, "If we were to assume that one of the professors betrayed his conscience and gave me the questions of the final examination, would it be reasonable, when I have a final in nine subjects, for the professors of all these subjects to be without a conscience?" I actually feel sorry for my professors, because of these accusations, more than I feel sorry for myself. When I presented my master's thesis, Mrs Nimmat Mustafa, the director of television asked me to tape the defense of my thesis. I told her, "Please, excuse me from this taping." But she said, "No. I am doing this deliberately so that when people ask is it possible that she obtained a master's degree, I would say here is the tape in front of you. Anyone who wants to hear her, can hear and see her defend her thesis over 2 hours and 15 minutes just like any other student defending her thesis in front of her professors." What no one knew was that the taping was stressful on my nerves. It may have been more stressful than necessary. I felt that I was going to defend my thesis not only in front of a university committee and in front of a group of friends, professors and students, but also in every home. Nevertheless, I told myself, "This may be the way that would be fair for me." I remember that after the taping was broadcast, I received a letter from Mr Ahmad Baha' al-Din, who is an eminent writer, and he is well-known for not being a dissembler. His letter was extremely sensitive. He said that he had watched the defense and that he had admired it. This letter made me feel that I had also been fair to my professors because of the questions that they are being asked, such as, is it possible that she would be the first [in her class], and is it possible that she would have all these activities and still be first? The fact is no one knows how many hours I work per day and no one knows about my ability to absorb and the extent of my aspirations. I want to learn and I want to educate myself. As I told you I am taking the road from the beginning. Do I need to work as an instructor or an assistant professor? Of course not. But, as I represent my country, I do need to make an effort and to raise my educational standard to what is appropriate for my country. I want to achieve an educational degree that would make me feel comfortable and actually worthy of representing Egypt. You know, of course, that master's theses are broadcast on the radio, but this was happening on television for the first time. This may open the way for broadcasting other theses.

[Question] I did actually find out that television will broadcast other theses. Television made a mistake when it broadcast the thesis by not saying that this would be the beginning of [a trend to] broadcast excellent theses.

[Answer] If only they had taped another thesis so that no one would say that they chose my thesis only! However, sometimes enthusiasm for something weakens [one's] thinking about other things, especially since I stipulated that my thesis pave the way for others. I told Mrs Nimmat, "I

am even prepared to tape or to go on the air directly, but I want you to do for others what you are doing for me. I like whatever treats me fairly in front of people." You cannot imagine the difficulty I have when I prepare a thesis and when I take an examination. Sometimes I do not sleep more than 3 or 4 hours. I stay up all night absorbed in references, studies, comparisons and translations. Nevertheless, I am happy because I feel I am doing something useful.

[Question] God willing, we will congratulate you soon on your doctorate.

[Answer] If it took me 7 years and 3 months to write my master's thesis, the doctoral dissertation may take much longer than that. But the years are not important. It is true that I sometimes feel in a hurry to make up for what is past, but what is important is the fact that this effort fills me with a sense of urgency for doing something well. At any rate, thanks be to God.

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FIRST LADY DISCUSSES BIRTH CONTROL WITH RURAL WOMEN

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Feb 81 p 3

[Article by Bahirah Mukhtar: "Egypt's First Lady and the Peasant Woman from Upper Egypt in a Candid Dialogue about Family Planning"]

> [Text] The midwife in the Egyptian village is undermining the project and is always trying to sabotage it. To guard ourselves against her evil, we must include her in the family planning [effort].

Egypt's first lady went to the villages of Upper Egypt.

She met the peasant women of al-Minya for the first time in a candid and direct dialogue about family planning.

The peasant women told Egypt's first lady, "We are using family planning methods, but we are not going to the physician for examinations."

The peasant women said, "The midwife is undermining the family planning project. She is the one who is trying to sabotage the project in every home."

This was not the first time for Mrs Jihan al-Sadat, Egypt's first lady, to go to the villages of Egypt to discuss with the peasant women their opinions about family planning.

This experiment began in the governorate of al-Minufiyah where female religious leaders and visiting health nurses were being trained in the al-Minufiyah [family planning] project. The training was supervised by Dr Sa'd Jadallah, the chairman of the Social Studies Center at the American University. [The purpose of the training] was to provide service door to door and to distribute the [birth control] pills after a medical examination in the [physician's] office. Through this project the number of those who frequented [the family planning centers] increased.

In al-Minufiyah Mrs Jihan al-Sadat was concentrating in [her] discussion with the rural leaders and the female medical leaders in the village on

the importance of spreading [the use of] the different means [of birth control], such as the intrauterine device, instead of focusing only on the pills because the problem of forgetfulness which women in the city have must represent a more serious problem in the village where we can never be quite certain that the peasant woman is capable of taking the pill in the proper way.

However, during her visit this time to the governorate of al-Minya to inspect the new health centers that offer comprehensive care through the Second Population Project that is supervised by the Ministry of Health, Mrs al-Sadat talked directly with the peasant women themselves who frequent the family planning centers.

In the village of (Qulusana) in al-Minya, Egypt's first lady asked one of the peasant women, "What family planning method do you use?"

The peasant woman replied, "I've had an intrauternie device placed 6 years ago.

The first lady said, "Do you go to the physician for a medical examination?" The peasant woman said, "No, I did not."

Then there was a discussion about this subject.

Dr Mamduh Jabr, the minister of health said that the Second Population Project seeks to improve the efficiency of those who are working on health and family planning projects so that these gaps can be avoided.

Then one of the peasant women said that the village midwife was warning them against [taking] the birth control pills or any other means of family planning.

Then Ra'ifah Sa'id of the Health Department in Samallut said that the midwife was undermining the project and that she was the one who was still trying to sabotage any appeal. Then Ra'ifah said, "We must include her in the family planning project."

Dr Mamduh Jabr, the minister of health agreed to that and said, "The opinion of those who are working with the people in the rural areas differs from that of the union leaders who think that the nursing staff will not accept having the midwife join them."

New statements were made in the course of this dialogue that had not been heard before in rural areas. A peasant woman told Egypt's first lady, "The costs of [having a] child have become very high."

"I am practicing birth control by taking birth control pills, and I have three children."

A rural leader told Mrs al-Sadat, "I have two children only, and I am taking the pill."

Then Ra'ifah Sa'id said, "The largest number of physicians must receive training in the use of family planning methods so that we can spread those methods in the rural centers that are remote from the villages. We must also persuade the husbands to use family planning methods."

Dr Mamduh Jabr, the minister of health told Egypt's first lady, "For this reason when we distribute physicians to the health centers, we are careful to assign female physicians to the centers, and especially in Upper Egypt so we can overcome this problem. I am now preparing a draft law that is to be presented to the People's Assembly. That draft law would allow highly trained and carefully selected skillful nurses and visiting health nurses to place the intrauterine device."

One of the peasant women told the first lady, "We want a nursery for the infants in our town."

Then the nursing staff at the center began to talk about incentives.

Egypt's first lady replied, "It is very easy to count incentives. First of all every center must succeed in presenting its report. This simply [includes] how many more women frequented the center; how many women didn't and why those that didn't come to the center [stayed away]? Do those who come to the center undergo a routine medical examination? Is there follow-up on those who stop taking the pill? Are they persuaded to use another method? Has the number of births in the village declined? If the medical center and the popular leaders succeed in this appeal, then calculating the incentives would be very easy, if the center achieves success in providing the people with health care."

In the village of al-'Awaysah the problem was clearer in the direct dialogue that took place between Mrs Jihan al-Sadat and the peasant women.

The president's wife asked one of them, "Are you using one of the methods of family planning?"

She told her, "Yes, I am taking the pill."

She asked her, "How many children do you have?" The woman replied in a low voice, "Three."

The president's wife laughed and said, "You look like you have more."

The peasant woman laughed and said, "Yes, I have more."

Another peasant woman had an 8-month old child, her sixth child. She told the president's wife that she was not using any birth control method because she was nursing her child. She said she had taken the pill once but that it had given her headaches so she stopped taking it.

A 28-year old peasant woman with three children told Mrs al-Sadat that she was taking the pill but that she had stopped taking it because she had not been well.

A peasant woman who has her prepara y school certificate said that taking the pill had caused her to gain weight and that the pill gave her a constant headache.

The president's wife replied, "Millions of wives in the world are taking the birth control pills. These symptoms must be caused by other diseases and not by the pills at all." She asked that follow-up be made on the cases of those who had stopped taking the pill, and she asked that an attempt be made to persuade them to use another method, such as the intra-uterine device or any other traditional method of birth control, and to provide it to them.

This picture reveals what was established by the study that was carried out by the Information Authority. That study proved that 50 percent of 2,000 couples had stated that the side effects of the pills persisted with the continued use of the pill; 13 percent said they did not know; and 20 percent of this sample believed that if there were side effects, they were sufficient justification for not using this method of birth control.

We must persuade young wives, not only those who have had six or seven children, to practice family planning. And we must help them select the method that is suitable to them, but it is necessary to concentrate on the young people.

8592
CSO: 4802

LOCAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CONSIDERS FOOD PROJECTS IN CAIRO

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jan 81 p 9

/Article by Muhammad Basha: "Will Projects for Self Sufficiency in Food Be Established in Cairo, which Accounts for 45 Percent of the Republic's Consumption"?/

/Text/ Mr Muhammad Rashwan, People's Assembly deputy and secretary general of the National Democratic Party, delcared that agreement has been reached with Eng 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, chairman of the Popular Development Committee of the party, to carry out a number of projects for self sufficiency in food in Cairo, such as poultry raising, calf fattening and so forth. Governor Sa'd Mamun also decided at the meeting that the executive system would provide every form of assistance in execution of this project. In another area, the local Cairo People's Assembly is studying three projects for self sufficiency in food, the first to establish five stations to raise and fatten calves, the second to raise poultry and the third to raise fish and ducks. After the assembly finishes discussing the economic feasibility of these projects, their shares will be put up for public subscription to the citizens at a value of 10 pounds per share; along with citizens, the National Bank, the Bank of Egypt and the Nasir Social Bank will participate in financing the private companies which the board of directors of these projects will establish, separate from government financing.

The studies before the People's Assembly stress the possibility of making these projects a success and their ability to contribute to projects for self-sufficiency in food. They will provide output at suitable prices for persons with limited incomes among the citizens of the capital, who total 9 million and who now consume about 45 percent of the republic's output, now that the capital, over the past years, has lost an important part of its fruit, vegetable and dairy production with the loss of many areas of agricultural land that surrounded it which, with the housing shortage, have become transformed into construction land planted with thousands of apartments, because they are more profitable and require less effort.

Mr 'Abd-al-Latif Baltiyah, chairman of the local People's Assembly, says that these projects account for one of the required means of private sector participation and intrinsic efforts of citizens in projects for self sufficiency in food, in executing President al-Sadat's directives to solve the problems of the masses; thus the assembly committee on self-sufficiency in food has studies these projects, and the assembly will discuss them at its next meeting.

What are the features of these projects?

Mr 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badran, chairman of the committee on self-sufficiency in food in the capital's People's Assembly, says that the first project on which the committee has completed preparing a picture calls for the possibility of establishing pens for raising poultry as a meat substitute to meet the Cairo masses' requirements for protein at suitable prices. The study was presented to Governor Sa'd Ma'mun, who pointed out that the governorates's role in this type of project will be restricted to the provision of land sites and all its facilities, but that no government financing will be provided, as the private sector is better able to carry such projects out.

Proceeding from this premise, the committee has actually begun its study and has concluded with specific features for the project, as Dr Zakariya 'Azmi, deputy in the local People's Assembly, states; these are embodied in the following:

Establishment of five poultry-raising stations, with an output of 20,000 chickens per cycle per station. The output of each station will be 100,000 chickens per year, calculating five cycles per year in each farm; that is, the output of the five farms will be about half a million chickens a year.

It is proposed that these stations be in the al-Tabin, Hilwan, al-Ma'adi, Madinat Nasr and al-Matariyah sections as the nucleus for an investment unit in a big poultry raising project in the capital.

The costs of erecting the pens are estimated at about 150,000 pounds, alongside an additional 150,000 pounds for the construction of an automatic slaughterhouse.

It is also recommended that a private sector company be established to be called the Cairo Company for Self-Sufficiency in Food, with capital half a million pounds to which the National Bank, the Bank of Egypt and the Nasir Social Bank will contribute, along with participants in the form of businessmen in Cairo; shares will be offered to the citizens for public subscription at 10 pounds per share.

The second of the projects whose study was requested by Mr 'Abd-al-Latif Baltiyah, chairman of the People's Assembly, is the project to raise buffalo calves and fatten them for slaughter. The committee on self sufficiency in food is completing its study which, as 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badran says, will call for the erection of pens for raising and fattening veal and water buffalo calves in agricultural areas in al-Tabin, Hilwan, al-Ma'adi and al-Matariyah. The study recommends formation of a company to raise and fatten livestock with capital of 1 million pounds and the erection of a livestock fodder plant; attention here will be given to have the banks which are to participate in the poultry project also take part.

The third project which the assembly is studying is one presented by Muhammad Kamal Sulayman, assembly member, on the establishment of a fish farm in the enclosed area between the Nilometer in al-Rawdah and the Meridien Hotel (the small river) in Old Cairo. There is no boat traffic or river use in this area because two main water pipes which are an obstacle to boat traffic cross the river. The recommendation calls for the conversion of the area to an artifical pond by means of barrier nets

as obstacles to keep fish from leaving the area, so that it can be a fish farm supplying Cairo with its fish requirements.

Mr 'Ali Imam, local assembly deputy, says that the committee on self-sufficiency in food has made a study on this proposal and has agreed to it, adding that this section of the Nile River can be used to establish a fish farm and also to raise Peking ducks. Thus the goal of meeting the shortfall in animal protein will be met and this tourist area will also be enhanced by an increase in varieties of ducks. It is also proposed, in executing this project, that a specialized investment firm or corporation of banks and citizens carry it out.

11887

CSO: 4802

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS TIGHTENED ON STUDENTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] KEYHAN City Service. So far, more than 71,000 applications for foreign exchange have been sent to the National Organization of Educational Evaluation by Iranian students abroad, and about 27,000 of them have been investigated.

Dr Gholam Reza Jahanshahlu, academic deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, said this to KEYHAN's cultural affairs reporter and added: "By virtue of a day-and-night struggle without any days off, the employees of this organization's operations section have investigated 27,000 envelopes containing applications for foreign exchange and related documents."

He added: "The method of work in this section is by categorizing these applications by country and their various states or provinces. In this manner, several persons educated in the corresponding area are assigned to several states or provinces of each country. They were selected on the basis of being completely familiar with the educational system and local laws there, and these persons working under the supervision of their bosses have so far done very good work. And in order to expedite the announcements of these results and to clarify as soon as possible the fate of our Iranian children studying abroad, they worked during holidays also."

Regarding investigation of these records, Dr Jahanshahlu also said: "Some interesting forgeries have been observed in these investigations, and the necessary measures are being taken for legal prosecution of such students, and their exchange allowance has been stopped."

He then presented to our reporter many examples that had been collected from the area of Germany, and gave him the required explanations. Among them there were several Germans claiming to be Iranian students studying in Germany requesting an application of foreign exchange be sent to them; or another one in which several rug merchants who went to Germany after the revolution sent in applications for preparation of foreign currency vouchers for them.

According to the documents sent in, a secondary school student who would be entering a school of higher education 5 years from now also requested that foreign currency be sent--and this is at a time when millions of Iranians are studying in elementary and high schools in our own country, and their level of education is certainly not below that of this type of person. Among them there was a case of a doctor who has been living in Germany for 23 years who also had requested he be sent a foreign exchange application for students.

While presenting many of this kind of documents, Dr Jahanshahlu added: "A great many problems and difficulties with foreign exchange for students will be eliminated by investigating these applications; and it is likely that the number of those exporting foreign currency will be reduced by more than half."

CSO: 4906

EXPANDED AL-SHU'AYBAH PORT OPENS

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 17 Feb 81 p 15

[Article: "In Splendid Ceremony, Minister of Commerce Opens Expanded Al-Shu'aybah Port; Port in Figures: 7 Million Dinars, 18,000 Work Days, Excavation of 8 Million Cubic Meters, 185,000 Tons of Cement"]

[Text] In a splendid ceremony, Minister of Commerce and Industry 'Abd-al-Wahab al Nafisi, acting for His Highness the Crown Prince, cut the traditional ribbon yesterday and announced the opening of the expanded port of al-Shu'aybah, which will continue to guarantee Kuwait additional port capacity.

Yesterday's ceremony was attended by a large gathering of ambassadors, most of them foreigners, as well as some Kuwaiti invited guests and the minister of communications.

The ceremony opened with the national anthem, followed by verses from the Koran and a speech by Director of the State Administration for al-Shu'aybah Zone Sulayman Khalid al-al-Hamd. After that Minister al-Nafisi and the invited guests turned toward a large triumphal arch erected especially for the occasion, and the minister then cut the ribbon. A walking tour of the port followed.

After that the minister, the guests and the ambassadors watched a review of boats and tugboats which were splendidly decorated and adorned with pictures of His Highness, and the Crown Prince and Kuwaiti flags. They also carried loudspeakers which poured out nationalist songs. Pride and nationalist sentiment were evident on the faces of the minister and his companions when the voice of singer 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Qadir came from one of the big boats singing "Long Live Our Kuwait."

Captain 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nibari began to explain to the minister and his companions everything about the port, the boats and the tugboats and the new conveniences.

He also directed by radio the procession of boats passing in review.

There were many Koreans at the celebration, in view of the great number of Korean workers who participated in the port expansion.

The Zone Administration then held an open air tea. Following that, the minister and some of the invited guests took a bus tour of the port and the al-Shu'aybah zone in general.

Al-Hamd's Speech

In the speech delivered by Director of the State Administration for al-Shu'aybah Zone Sulayman Khalid al-Hamd, he said: "Kuwait's location in the northwest corner of the Arab Gulf has had a great effect for a long time on its gaining commercial importance. The state has become a natural outlet for the northeast Arabian Peninsula, which has made its people sea explorers and among the most skillful of the peoples of the Gulf in making small and large vessels, on which they sailed on commercial trips to India and East Africa and established trade relations with these countries."

He referred to the expanded al-Shu'aybah port in its three stages and said that the completed work constitutes the main but not the only element, since the State Administration intends to complete various installations and other facilities such as a containerized shipping station, a communications tower and others which as a whole will make al-Shu'aybah port an important economic port serving the industries working in the zone in particular and economic activity in the country in general.

He then reviewed briefly the features of the expansion work and said that it included 15 commercial piers with a total length of 5,090 meters. The depth of the water there is 14 meters, and there is a second docking area for small boats with water 6 meters deep.

Al-Hamd added that the excavation of the sea floor amounted to about 8.2 million cubic meters, and 185,000 tons of cement were used, in addition to 603,000 cubic meters of [salbukh] gravel (?) and 335,000 cubic meters of sand. The volume of precast concrete was 670,000 cubic meters, and the quantity of sand used as fill was 3.9 million cubic meters. The human effort required was the equivalent of 618,000 work days, during which an average of 155 units of machinery and naval equipment were in use.

It should be noted that the total investments in the al-Shu'aybah commercial port expansion in its three stages thus far have amounted to about 70 million Kuwaiti dinars. It is anticipated that about 40 million more dinars will be spent this year and next to complete the equipment and installations for this expansion and the associated naval and land services and facilities.

Aerial photo of al-Shu'aybah port facility

7587
CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

INVESTMENTS IN BRITAIN--Financial sources in London said yesterday that the Kuwaiti Investment Office made a significant increase in its shares in British companies by its purchase last week of shares worth 3.5 million pounds sterling or about $8 million. The office is part of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance and has adopted London as its headquarters for its operations. It has increased its shares in the British Burmah Oil Company, Ltd. to 6.4 percent of its capital, which is equivalent to 17 million pounds sterling. Other transactions have included increasing its shares in the General Accident Insurance Company to 9 percent, in the (Eiffel Star) Insurance Company to 5.5 percent and in the Bank of Scotland to 7.7 percent. It was disclosed that the office increased its shares in Chubb financial syndicate to 11 percent of the capital. With these new transactions, the value of the office's holdings in these five groups based on current prices per share is $220 million. [Text] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 13 Feb 81 p 11] 7587

ISLAMIC BANK PARTICIPATION--At its weekly meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd 'Abdallah, the Council of Ministers decided to increase Kuwait's participation in the capital of the Islamic Development Bank to 250 million Islamic dinars. It sanctioned a report freeing the orphans of 150 female prisoners from their debts to the Credit and Savings Bank. The council was informed of preparations under way to wind up the election operation. [Excerpt] [Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Feb 81 p 3] 7587

CSO: 4802

COMMENTATOR CALLS FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 14 Mar 81 p 25

/Article by George Bashir: "Lebanon Wonders, Why Not Be Friends with the Soviets?"/

/Text/ At a dinner party attended by a number of ambassadors, foremost among them the ambassador of a major country and some political figures, which a former major Lebanese official held toward the end of last week in honor of the leaders of the Executive Committee of the World Maronite Federation, who were visiting Lebanon, the discussion revolved about American president Ronald Reagan's policy toward the Lebanese crisis, and his position on the efforts being made to separate the crisis in Lebanon from the Middle East crisis.

As the leaders of the Maronite Federation - especially those from the United States of America - lucidly described at a closed session what they had personally told President Ronald Reagan and his presidential campaign staff on Lebanon and this issue specifically, and then described what President Reagan had said when he was a candidate and after he had become president, they concluded by giving those present the specific advice to rely strongly on the government in Washington, because it was better able than others to do something to end the Lebanese crisis: "Our discussions with the new American administration are going on and have not been interrupted, although we must now wait awhile to make it possible for this administration to study things and grasp the lines of the crisis."

One of the people present, who had lived with the Lebanese crisis since former American president Jimmy Carter had waged his election campaign, said that he was among the people of Lebanese extraction who had met Carter the candidate in the election campaign before last and had studied the situation in Lebanon with him from all aspects, as well as with his senior advisors. They, expecially Carter, had all promised good things when he became President. In fact, Carter explicitly acknowledged that Lebanon could not alone bear the burned of other people's wars on its territory, especially the capable forces in the world's neglect of the need to put a limit to this war and the Lebanese tragedy as soon as possible. President Carter the candidate even went to Brooklyn in New York State, and proceeded to give a 100 percent Lebanese speech, since Americans who are of Lebanese origin live there. In this speech that day, Carter stated, in effect, that the United States had been negligent in coping with the war in Lebanon and had not offered real assistance to help that country deal with the vicious war of disintegration which faced it - because if the war continued it would lead the country and the people to disinte-

gration and annihilation, and it was necessary that Lebanon exist in the world, and in the Middle East region specifically, because it was the land of freedom, democracy and human rights, embodied in its national character with the two cultures, Christian and Moslem, and because it was a friend of the United States, and its people, some of whom had emigrated to America and had become pillars among American citizens in devotion to the land which had welcomed them. Therefore he, Carter, determined, after his victory in the presidential elections, to devote full attention with his senior aides to the problem in Lebanon and to give it the concern of the new American administration.

In the midst of the attention and total concern of those attending the dinner, the interlocutor added, in his American dialect, "I was one of those who recorded this 'committed' talk on the part of Carter the candidate, and I was one of those who met with him after his victory, asking him to live up to his promise toward Lebanon. He told me 'Wait awhile, we have a big surprise in the Middle East which will certainly be to Lebanon's benefit.'"

The surprise the American president was talking about at the time, in the second half of the seventies, was the Camp David agreements and the agreement between the three parties, the United States of America, Egypt and Isreal, to work to settle the Palestinians where they are today, giving autonomy to those who are on the West Bank and Gaza and giving those outside this framework the right to stay forever in the countries to which they had migrated - provided that the countries where they lived provided material and moral aid to induce them to accept the principle of settlement.

The person making this statement went on, "I was one of the persons who met the Isreali president, Menachem Begin. The meeting was stormy in the extreme because we were very blunt with him; we held the meeting with him because we had American citizenship and were in favor of the dialogue. We asked Begin about the fate of the Palestinians who live in the Arab countries following the signing of the Camp David agreement. He said, 'This is not our problem. We cannot bear any more burdens. The Egyptians and Americans have shown a satisfactory understanding of our viewpoint and situation.' This is what Begin said. We then realized that the Camp David agreements were not in the interest of Lebanon."

Another American of Lebanese extraction joined in the conversation, stating, "We expected to see a resolution to the Lebanese crisis with the American elections in Carter's time. Then after that we waited until Carter took power, studied the files and acted. After that, everyone waited for the Isreali elections. Then the Likud Bloc won. We waited and saw the Camp David agreements. A year ago you were again waiting for the American elections, in which President Ronald Reagan won; today you are waiting, along with all the countries in the Middle East, while Reagan studies his files; and here you are, awaiting the Isreali elections along with all the governments in the region today. After that, we do not know what you will be waiting for! Why don't you go to Moscow? At least your situation there can only be better than that of Lech Walesa, the Polish labor leader."

Everyone who was at the table looked at everyone else and wondered, "Really, what is there between us and Chairman Brezhnev? Why don't we go to Moscow? Why aren't

preparations made starting today for President Ilyas Sarkis to make a visit to the Soviet Union to review the developments in the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East region with the leaders of the Kremlin? The Russians head the list of countries which want to end the Lebanese crisis, through perhaps in their fashion, perhaps by having the Communist Party take power."

One of the people present said, by way of amazed comment, that that was impossible, that Chairman Brezhnez was touchy about Lebanon and that our relations, as Lebanese, with the Soviet Union as a country have not been strong.

However, another person there broke in and related a historic anecdote on Lebanon's position between France and Hitler's Germany during the World War, in an attempt to make a comparison with Leban's relations with America today.

The story has it that when the late Emil al-Kazin was an officer in the gendarmeries during the war, in the days of the French, the French High Commissioner issued an order assigning someone beside Shaykh Emil to command the gendarmerie. Shaykh Emil's wife immediately went to the office of the high commissioner in al-Burj Square, cursing France and the day it took power and assumed the mandate over Lebanon. One of the counsellors in the grand palace met her and began to soothe her fears and calm her spirits with the possibility of finding a solution to the case. The counsellor asked to woman "Does all this merit your cursing France at the top of your voice, as if all that was missing in the matter was for you to declare your support for Hitler?" al-Khazin's wife looked around her then asked the counsellor, "That's right, what is there between us and Hitler? We supported France because France is against Hitler, but maybe Hitler is a good man; our position of hostility toward him was the result of our respect for France."

The person who told this true story from the days of the mandate wanted one way or another to make those present - especially those who had direct relations with the Americans - understand that Lebanon's position on the Soviet Union is to some extent the result of friendship toward America. The Soviet Union's role in resolving the Middle East crisis and the Lebanese crisis has become significant, enduring and major, and Lebanon no longer has an option regarding the need to develop its relations with Moscow. The Lebanese president and foreign minister's support for Chairman Brezhnev's proposal calling for an international conference under the supervision of the two major powers to resolve the crisis in the area was a purely diplomatic entree to making the Americans feel once again that Lebanon was not pleased with the Camp David agreements and that the Americans insistence on following through with the execution of the agreements, means first of all consecrating the issue of settling /the Palestinians/, which the Lebanese leaders reject unanimously.

Present Ilyas Sarkis' visit to Washington in the coming months, which has been placed on the table for discussion, will inevitably be followed by a visit by the Lebanese president to Moscow.

This is what is being prepared for today secretly, diplomatically and "properly." The end of President Ilyas Sarkis' term might be a fit, salubrious opportunity for his sucessor to begin his term with balanced dealings with the two superpowers in the future.

11887
CSO: 4802

PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ARMY CRISIS DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 31 Jan 81 pp 24-25

[Article by Ghassan Bayram: "Taqyi-al-Din al-Sulh makes the following disclosure: "After my appointment to form the 'National Accord' Cabinet, President Sarkis and I, with the consent of the National Front, agreed to name a muslim as chief of the army."]

[Text] Some of the steps taken by President Sarkis since forming the present cabinet, surprised politicians and raised a number of questions:

First: Did the Lebanese president see some signs on the Arab or international horizon which caused him to disregard all excuses that until now have impeded the political and security solutions? It seems that the president is willing to forego positions which were considered by many, and especially the maronites, untouchable taboos.

Second: If the signs mentioned above are not the real motives for the concessions, is it true that the legal authority in Lebanon has reached a state of political bankruptcy and feels obligated figuratively to withdraw from its funds? Withdrawing these funds, as with the most recent concessions, had been forbidden since independence.

According to some old-time politicians, if the first probability is true then a general review of the government deeds should be conducted. The review should cover the last 4 years during which Lebanon lived in a maze as a result of an attachment by the government to obsolete principles. Sudden change of mind concerning these principles should not be taken with indifference.

If the second probability is true and bankruptcy had actually taken place, we may conclude that the efforts to retreat indicate that a new Lebanese formula is in the process of being created. This formula concerns the political system as well as the foreign policy with regard to the Arabic countries and the international community. The previous prime minister Salim al-Huss who spent 4 years in the government, undoubtedly knows well the seriousness of the Lebanese crisis and the devastating result, if the government continues to exhaust the funds accumulated over 30 years.

The above-mentioned questions along with other questions have been asked since the government was forced to make an unusual decision; Lebanon refused to attend

the Arab Summit Conference in Amman. In the opinion of some politicians the decision is considered an unusual precedent in Lebanon's foreign policy.

Apart from the apologies used in order to justify the decision, the truth remains clear. Lebanon decided not to attend Amman Summit Conference in order to give the Al-Wazzan Cabinet a chance to obtain confidence in the parliament, and govern after safely crossing the mine field created in its way. What Lebanon sacrificed was the policy of neutrality with regard to the major Arab issues. Lebanon adopted a neutral position with respect to issues dividing evenly the Arabic countries, but joined when the majority agreed. Lebanon would not have had to pay that price if it had adopted a practical policy from the start and built bridges of confidence with Syria. These bridges should have not been exposed to uncertainty as was the case several times in the past. That created a feeling of distrust between Beirut and Damascus that has surfaced occasionally, bringing political tension to the Lebanese scene. Suddenly, after 4 years, the government woke up and recognized the reality of the situation, and decided to coordinate with Syria on all issues.

One Country One Army

Since the first days of the administration, the government decided to reconstruct the state by rebuilding the army on modern and national foundations. An army built on such foundations will represent all Lebanese and be able to bring back unity and security and measure up to the recently adopted motto "one army for one Lebanon." At that time Dr Salim al-Huss and the president disagreed only on how the army should be rebuilt in order to genuinely represent all Lebanese.

After a significant delay the president, under special circumstances, was forced to accept the Army law as passed by the parliament. What led to the difference in opinion between the prime minister and the president was the decree concerning the reorganization of the general command of the army. The prime minister insisted on restricting the authority of the Intelligence Directorate (G2), only to army requirements. According to this concept, the Intelligence Directorate will be placed under the authority of the chief of general staff. The president, on the contrary wanted to keep the Intelligence Directorate authority as it was before. His argument was that the country today, more than ever, needs a strong intelligence gathering unit and it would be unwise to leave the Lebanese scene to Arab and other information gathering agencies without having an equivalent national agency.

What the president refused to give to his former friend and now arch-enemy, the previous prime minister, was handed over to the new prime minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. When al-Wazzan became prime minister, he found himself with a position left by Dr al-Huss that he cannot leave without suffering a political setback.

When the cabinet approved the Army law in the form wanted by the previous prime minister, the question was: Why did the president not cooperate with the previous prime minister, and avoid the political rift with the prime minister. Such cooperation would have saved the country a delay of 22 months during which the Army law would have been instituted, leading perhaps to a state where security could be achieved.

Secrets From Taqyi-al-Din al-Sulh

On several social occasions, Mr Taqyi-al-Din al-Sulh had said that if he had been successful in forming the cabinet, he would have accomplished much more than the present prime minister with regard to the army issue.

It was also reported that Mr al-Sulh, after being appointed to form the Unity Cabinet, had agreed with the president not only on passing the Army law in the form it was finally passed, but on making basic changes in long standing tra - tions. For example, appointing a muslim as chief of the army--namely Major Munir Turbay, a muslim Druze. This position has customarily been held by a maronite. It was also said that the agreement got the consent of the National Front (a maronite political group). That was done in order to bring down all blocks which would impede the rebuilding of the army and the realization of a political reconciliation. Such a radical change would have proved to the muslims that there was a genuine readiness to right the wrong and accept a real muslim participation in governing the new Lebanon.

Due to well-known reasons Mr al-Sulh excused himself from forming the cabinet. The question being asked lately is: now that the Army law has been passed according to Mr al-Wazzan wishes, are the president and the maronites still ready to give up the position of the chief of the army during Mr al-Wazzan's tenure.

Some believe that the president, by approving the present law concerning the reorganization of the army, wanted to increase the power of his prime minister and make him appear in diplomatic circles as an achiever and reliable representative. Others said that the real reason why the president made the concession was a new development in the governing mentality. This development convinced him to face realities that are hard to ignore hoping that the new approach would refute arguments which some groups used in opposing the government.

Publishing the decree concerning the reorganization of the army the night before the Islamic Summit was intended to permit the president to have the support of his prime minister while presenting the Lebanese issue at the convention and while having private meetings with some Arab leaders and Mr Kurt Waldheim, the secretary general of the UN. But the most important of all is the meeting between President Ilyas Sarkis and President Hafez al-Asad which is still expected to take place in Damascus after the Ta'if Summit.

Before going to the Ta'if Summit Lebanon promised to back the Syrian position at the Summit. In addition, it promised to work closely with the Syrian regime: that is similar to the decision taken with regard to boycotting the Amman Summit. Among the other steps the government undertook in order to obtain Syrian friendship was the renewal of the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces. Lebanon, finding it to be in its interests, took the initiative in asking for the renewal even before there was a Syrian-Lebanese meeting. Lebanon did this in order to prove that the request was not the result of political pressure. In addition, the minister of foreign affairs invited the ambassadors of the countries that are financing the forces and asked them to support Lebanon in its wish to renew the mandate.

During the discussion of the request at the Arab League meeting, the Lebanese representative called Beirut, informing the government that some of the countries may not continue to provide financial aid. That representative was asked to hold to his request for renewal even if some of the countries refused to give financial support.

Sources close to the government said that the Lebanese authority is willing, if necessary, to go even further to please the Syrian government. Lebanon is trying to please the Syrian authority in order to create an atmosphere of mutual trust between Beirut and Damascus. Such an atmosphere will facilitate the holding of a bilateral conference between their governments. Lebanon expects the Syrian government to respond positively to solutions and ideas brought by President Sarkis. Included will be a plan calling for a joint participation of the Lebanese army and the Arab Deterrent Forces. This cooperation will bring general peace and eventually lead to the opening of commercial markets. In addition, other positive steps could be brought about in order to start political dialogues and find a temporary solution to the Lebanese crisis. After the settlement of the Palestinian situation then the Lebanese may either keep the temporary solution or look for a new and final one which will be capable of bringing Lebanon to the position held before the war.

9786
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MILITARY EQUIPMENT SOUGHT FROM REAGAN ADMINISTRATION

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 31 Jan 81 pp 23-24

[Article: Report on Secret Meeting with U.S. Delegation]

> [Text] The previous American administration stopped sending arms to the Lebanese army and prevented Italian factories that had been associated with the administration from selling arms to Lebanon.

The long standing practice of the Phalange party's political bureau is to listen to the weekly report presented by Deputy Amin Jumayyil. The report usually deals with new developments in the Middle East crisis, and its repercussions in Lebanon.

This task enables Jumayyil to keep up with the latest news and changes on international, Arab and regional developments through a network of contacts.

Since this role has always provided Jumayyil with a broad knowledge of political events in the region, his weekly reports to the political bureau are considered one of the most important factors in the decisions and stands of the party with respect to the ever controversial relationship between international and regional events and those in Lebanon.

Last week, while having lunch with a group of journalists, Shaykh Amin was discussing the most recent developments, particularly since Reagan's inauguration. He said that Lebanon should be somewhat optimistic about changes in the American administration, because President Reagan, it appears, plans to give the Lebanese crisis the necessary attention.

Deputy Jumayyil revealed a long-kept secret, saying that recently the Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has received an envoy sent by President Reagan. The envoy is a well known American of Lebanese origin who is known for his close friendship with President Reagan, and had an important role in the presidential election campaign committee.

During his secret visit, Reagan's envoy listened to President Sarkis' analysis and description of the various aspects of the Lebanese crisis and the means that could be employed to end it.

The American envoy assured President Sarkis that President Reagan will give the Lebanese situation attention and, contrary to former President Carter, he is known for his firm stands and decisions.

Since the American envoy came to listen and not to talk about what the American president plans to do, the Lebanese government, like the rest of the states in the region, is still waiting to know the substance, inclination and intention of the new American administration.

Because of its present situation, Lebanon, more than most countries in the region, is eager to know the intention of the American administration. Furthermore, it will be possible to perceive the political future and security of Lebanon in light of the new American president's policy concerning a settlement for the Middle East crisis. Therefore, the Lebanese government is waiting to know whether or not the American position will remain as it was during Carter's administration, which viewed the Lebanese crisis as a part of the Middle East crisis believing that separating the two was an impossible task. In addition, several other questions were asked. For example: Will the new U.S. administration have a new strategy recognizing the necessity for Lebanon to remain united within its present borders? If so, will the U.S. actually pursue that strategy in both action and words, or will it conduct itself like the previous administration which announced its support in theory and then did the opposite?

A Lebanese senior official acknowledged that all efforts during the last 4 years have proven conclusively that the continuation of the Lebanese crisis in its viciousness, unlawfulness and fragmentation was the result of the inflexible policy of previous American administration. This policy held that the Lebanese situation must be considered a part of the general settlement of the Middle East conflict regardless of whether the settlement involved Lebanon's preservation, or whether it called for partition resembling the current situation in order to make possible the permanent establishment of the Palestinians living in its territories.

The same official stated that there were two indications of tangible evidence concerning this American policy. One was known and apparent, while the other unknown and unclear.

The first indication was seen in the American policy in South Lebanon. There the Americans neglected to put any effective pressure on Israel to stop its aggression and annexation of a large part of the south. Israel has transformed that region into a center of tension, continually threatening the eruption of not only a Lebanese war, but also an Israeli-Arab war.

If Washington had adopted another policy it would have been able to pressure Israel into honoring the resolutions of the UN Security Council by withdrawing from the south in order to permit the UN forces to advance to the border areas and to exercise their mandate in the whole region. Israel's activities in South Lebanon are preventing the UN forces from being effective. If a solution is found in the south, it will be considered a step forward to permanently or at least temporarily solving the Lebanese crisis. That will greatly improve Lebanon's situation.

The second indication appeared as a result of Washington's inconsistent position concerning the building of the new Lebanese army. The position of the previous administration in regard to rebuilding the army was always characterized by foot-dragging and hesitation, which undoubtedly meant that Washington did not want the Lebanese government to stand on its feet and exercise its role from a position of strength.

The Lebanese official stated that, since the building of the army began Washington showered the Lebanese government with promises declaring American desire and intention to provide military and technical aid. But when the time came for Washington to fulfill its obligations, the administration used an eyedropper in sending some light and medium arms. In addition, it intentionally delayed shipment of these arms. The delays were so frequent that the Lebanese government was always preoccupied with calling the American ambassador in Beirut either to the presidential palace or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and requesting him to ask his government to speed up implementation of the aid program. The army was growing fast in number while arming it was too slow and the internal situation required an army that be capable of effectively exercising its role.

The Lebanese insistence achieved the opposite result. Finally the U.S. stopped even the small amount of military aid that it was providing. Later it became apparent that the previous American administration passed a resolution to stop this aid. In the face of the pressing need for providing the army with weapons, the Lebanese government looked elsewhere for arms which are similar to those bought in the U.S. and discovered that some Italian factories produced those types of weapons. It then decided to conclude contracts with these firms to purchase some of their products. Following a number of contacts in this regard, a military delegation was sent to Italy to negotiate for arms. But the delegation came back empty-handed. The delegation was told that those factories were responsible for manufacturing American arms and needed permission from the Pentagon before selling any arms. When the Italian firm asked for permission to sell arms they were turned down.

Such an experience taught the Lebanese authority not to attach great importance to any announcement made by the new American administration declaring its support for the preservation of Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders regardless of the source of the announcement.

The credibility of the new American administration toward Lebanon will be measured by the extent to which Washington can go in order to help Lebanon, and how quickly it will move to provide the army with military equipment.

Lately Lebanese politicians have been speculating about what should be expected from the new administration. One politician stated that resuming military aid would indicate that Reagan intends to help the Lebanese government improve its effectiveness and strengthen its position.

9786
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ANALYST CALLS FOR COMPANIES TO RE-EVALUATE ASSETS

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 14 Mar 81 pp 43, 44

/Article by 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khalil: "The Nicest Solution to the Ugliest Deficit in the Lebanese Treasury: Change One Word in the Commercial Law"/

/Text/ The discussion about the deficit in the Lebanese treasury and the Lebanese budget is of the greatest importance from the economic, financial and monetary standpoints in the Lebanon of today.

The importance of the discussion lies not just in the fact that in any country's treasury and budget, a deficit, and the nature of its emergence, in itself is, from the standpoint of principle, one of the most prominent indices of the government's ability to perform its traditional and non-tradition duties and a signal of negative influences on the value of the domestic currency, the rate of inflation, the cost of living, and so forth. The discussion itself is more important in Lebanon today from two angles:

The first angle is that of the constant escalation in the volume (and perhaps the rates) of the deficit and the dangers posed by its accumulation, year after year.

The second angle is that of the extreme gloom which continues to envelop Lebanon and its political and strategic circumstances; for 6 years these have been, and still are the basic source of this new deficit, which is growing in depth and seriousness.

A great dea' has been said on this subject. Many official and non-official politicians and economists have contributed to talking about it.

While it once appeared that the great number of people talking and the great amount being said about this issue left no room for anything new or even additional, we can here borrow the first line of a poe. by the Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet: "We haven't yet spoken the nicest words!" We can state most simply that the nicest words have not yet been spoken on the subject of the deficit, either concerning the astonishment with it and around it or the solutions which could alleviate or eliminate it, even in the context of current conditions.

While the deficit which has occurred, and the increase in it, are the result of an increasing shortfall in government revenues relative to expenditures, the fact that this has happened in Lebanon in recent years does not inspire bewilderment and does

not stir up amazement or astonishment. Indeed, perhaps the only sort of emotion which is possible, reasonable and acceptable in this sphere is astonishment at the notion that one could be astonished at the deficit and disdain at the phenomenon of viewing it with bewilderment and astonishment.

Astonishment at this notion, and disdain for the manifestion of it, not just for the well-known causes of deficits to which industrial and nonindustrial, advanced and developing countries fall prey at great rates and greater volumes - even in ordinary states of their existence - but also, here, for the lack of perspicacity of people who are amazed at the deficit and people who look at it with astonishment and fail to be astounded at the fact that the deficit in Lebanon's treasury and budget, during the stage which has just ended, has stayed within its present limits and has not gone beyond them to more serious levels.

In spite of everything which the deficit that has occurred so far has entailed - along with the deficit which is anticipated, in the light of prevalent conditions, which are expected to continue for a period whose duration no one can now predict - one can say that this deficit is still within relatively "reasonable" limits. It has stayed within these limits, perhaps because of another government deficit, which is its deficiency in making development and reconstruction spending. To underline this, it is sufficient to proceed from the figures contained in the reconstruction plan the Development and Reconstruction Council set out in 1978 (figures outstripped by developments and ramifications which arose later, which one can lean on now only from the standpoint of the record) to note that the deficit which was to befall the government and its budget and treasury, in the event it could spend money on development and reconstruction, would have been greater than its present one. Here it is sufficient, simplifying after a fashion, to point out that just a quarter of the costs in this development and reconstruction plan would have come from within, while three quarters of them were the subject of discussion among other sources, whose income one could record only in the deficit category.

What inspires greater astonishment than the fact that the deficit has not gone beyond the limits it has actually reached is the well known fact that the main Lebanese treasury and government budget revenue heading is indirect taxes. The most important element in this heading, specifically, is that on customs duties, which some officials, relying on indices and data on national income, nation product, domestic trade and imports, estimate would come, if Lebanon were in its natural condition, in 1980 for example, to 3 billion Lebanese pounds, as contrasted with the modest forecast of such revenues in the official budget (less than 1 billion), and the even more modest actual receipts (less than 100 million Lebanese pounds).

If, to this state of affairs, which rules out fundamental Lebanese government treasury revenues, one adds the fact that the other taxes paid (direct or indirect) are almost confined to taxes on the incomes of military and retired employees, servants and workers with limited incomes one can round out the picture of the great, increasing deficit in revenues which ought to have increased at a time when the government has not hesitated to respond to the continuous increase in current expenses.

In reality, by glancing at developments in the headings on current Lebanese government expenditures, especially in its general budget - which accounts for the major,

overwhelming portion of its entire budget, including the appendix - it becomes clear that the Lebanese government is the only body in the Lebanese economy which has borne its full responsibilities toward these headings, which include salaries, compensations and wages of employees and retired persons. This also consists of increases which have occurred in these payments since the outbreak of the crisis (now estimated at between 100 and 150 percent of base) within the context of inflation, correction of salary scales, and amendment of salary rates (upwards, of course), at a time when many large, small and medium-sized organizations failed to keep up their overall or partial expenditures by making full payments to employees or servants, or a portion of them.

Considering that government spending in this field is out of proportion with the low or declining productivity one would expect of it, its social character - and the delay in social disruptions it is contributing to, or the delay it is contributing to in the dispossession of citizens and families at the hands of illegitimate forces - may be sufficient to justify it and make the deficit arising from it acceptable. This justification is increasing in value and importance, in view of elements in this deficit which give assurance that the road to correcting the deficit without radical solutions may be taken as soon as Lebanon enters a stage of security and political stability, if every body or party in Lebanon performs its duty.

While it was necessary, if Lebanon's budget and public finances were to be reformed and that part of the national product which the government needed and required was to be collected before the 1975 outburst that a radical tax reform be made to eliminate the "minor" deficit - that is, that in the budgets prior to 1975 - and to provide the government with extra revenues to carry out the development and construction programs Lebanon needed before the outbreak of the crisis, elimination of the new deficit will be possible, in whole or for the most part, just by enabling the government to receive its customs revenues, letting it regain its power to execute traditional tax laws, enabling it to stop the theft of electricity, water and telephone lines, and so forth. This will all just require a return to a natural situation, even without the execution of any radical or non-radical tax reform.

Ignoring this idea and failing to return to the natural situation have not kept government officials fron thinking of a suitable solution to eliminate the deficit, even in the context of prevailing conditions, without performing any military or political activity which it would be impossible to carry out.

The notion arose within the framework of an agency to coordinate financial and monetary policy which consisted of the minister of finance, Dr 'Ali al-Khali, the governor of the Central Bank, Shaykh Michel al-Khuri, and the chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, Dr Muhammad 'Ata'ullah.

The notion is very simple and does not require massive structural activity or enormous effort -- it just needs a temporary amendment in a single article of the Lebanese Commercial Law, based on a temporary substitution of one word for another in this article.

There is an article in the Commercial law which stipulates that commercial companies and organizations "can" re-evaluate their assets once or a number of times, by deci-

sion of their owners or boards of directors, on condition that they pay the government the equivalent of 10 percent of the difference between the book value and the new appraised value.

The modification required, according to this idea, involves changing the word "can" and replacing it, temporarily, once, on an exceptional basis, with the word "must," to compel these companies and organizations to re-evaluate their assets so that they will legally "bound" to pay the 10 percent of the difference between the book or previous value and the new value.

The recommendation which has arisen from this idea, and has also been set forth for discussion and treatment by the coordinating agency, also stipulates an additional modification to the stipulation "temporarily, once, on an exceptional basis," which will complement and follow the first one, namely that the organizations and companies concerned not be immediately assigned to pay the difference they obtain through the re-evaluation but that payment be delayed until a later time which could be determined by observing a number of facts, so that these funds could be recorded as government and government treasury debts which these organizations can pay off later.

What is the value of this idea and the feasibility of this recommendation?

While acknowledging that many Lebanese companies and organizations have faced various capital and operating losses during or because of the events, one must also acknowledge that all these organizations' assets (or, out of theoretical or scholarly caution, most of them) have increased several times in value, perhaps no less than 10 times over in the lowest cases and often more than 15 times.

This severalfold increase in the value of these assets did not, for the most part, come about as the result of effort on the part of these organizations and their management, but rather as the result of the ramifications of a number of facts, such as the advanced state of the society they function in and the pains and miseries which have afflicted this society.

The nature of the commercial activity of the organizations and companies involved makes it mandatory that they re-evaluate their assets someday, whether they want to sell them in full or in part, or want to expand them and borrow on them to increase their liquidity and resources, or for any other reason; it may be in their interest to perform the re-evaluation today will undoubtedly be less than 20 percent of a similar difference tomorrow, especially since the proposed modification makes it necessary that the government's share in this sphere be recorded with the companies and be collected not now but at a subsequent time.

Re-evaluation is one of the future activities of the organizations; there is no doubt about that. It is in the interest of the companies to carry it out today, not tomorrow, not just because of the differences they will be liable for to vis-a-vis the government but also because the modification will not produce any burden in terms of liquidity at the present time.

How can the government benefit from this idea and proposal?

The benefits are very obvious and rapid. They have a number of dimensions:

On the one hand, without going into estimated figures, one can agree that this re-evaluation process will mean a severalfold rise in the value of the assets of the companies and organizations involved; the amount will make 10 percent of the difference between their book value and their new value add up to government revenues estimated in the hundreds of millions, even billions, of Lebanese pounds.

These funds will not of course go into the Lebanese treasury, because this recommendation stipulates that the organizations be assigned not to pay them immediately, but rather to register them in their government accounts and set out a detailed system for collecting them in the future. However, simply carrying out the recommendation will mean recording debts due the government within the companies and organizations involved, in exchange for the debts which the government must pay domestically and abroad, reducing the deficit in the government's budget -- indeed eliminating it on the books.

This procedure will have the effect of greatly strengthening the government's power to borrow against these funds or against their general situation and providing it with many sources of money for its current expenses, or even its non-current expenses.

Will the Lebanese government put this recommendation into practice?

Why not?

Isn't everything involved in it to the benefit of the government and the government treasury, budget and financial, monetary and economic conditions?

Won't the modifications which the recommendation entail avoid any damage to the companies or organizations and avoid imposing any burden upon them which might damage the economy? Then, in some of its aspects, isn't there something of benefit to the organizations and companies concerned with it?

Aren't the results it might lead to in terms of the government revenues within Lebanon, by Lebanese standards, similar to the results produced by the re-evaluation of the prices of oil and gold in the countries which produce and sell those commodities?

Does the recommendation contain anything which might be deleterious or negative for Lebanon and its economy, government or private sector?

The question is now undergoing final discussion in official circles. It is not harmful to have it subjected to discussion in unof icial circles, so that if the value of the recommendations is proved in full it will be taken up rapidly, before the fiscal (and non-fiscal) deficit takes us up, government, citizens and nation.

11887

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MILITARY TRAINING IN PHALANGE, LEBANESE FRONT REVIEWED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16-21 Feb 81 13

/Article by Mayy Kahhalah: "The Lebanese Front: Military Training Is Not Conscription"/

/Text/ The decision the "Lebanese Forces" recently made on the military training of students, which the "National Movement" and the progressive parties have severely criticized and considered compulsory conscription and a consecration of autonomy with all its implications, is not new.

Before the 7 July 1980 movement and the radical review of the organization of military forces in the "Lebanese Front," the notion of military training entered the minds of military officials in the Phalange and Liberal Nationalist Parties, each of which separately set out projects for training which would be compulsory in the case of students who belonged to the party and voluntary in the case of others. The Liberals, in the first stage, reached themselves to train 1,000 students who were party members and persons responsible for student cells. The effect of the 7 July movement was to delay these plans, since the parties became preoccupied with more important things.

However, 7 July, which delayed the military training, did not erase the idea from the minds of responsible persons; rather, it strenghened the need to start carrying it out in the practical sense, for more than one reason. The Lebanese army, which had assumed that task before the events in Lebanon, is not now able to assume this role again because it is concentrating on graduating the new groups which joined it recently.

The timing of the announcement on the start of military training, as responsible persons in various parties to the Lebanese Front assert, lies in the fact that this step will underline the transformation of the Lebanese Forces into a real nucleus for all the fighting military forces in these parties and will strip them of the Phalangist character which they had possessed before 7 July and later, before agreement was reached on appointing Mr Dory Chamoun chief of the Political Agency of the Lebanese Forces and the lawyer Charles Ghastin as deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces.

Training, Not Conscription

In clarifying this step and the statments made about it, responsible persons in the Lebanese Forces claim that there has been an exaggeration of the development aimed at exploiting it in the political context, that the military training is not compulsory conscription at all, that it will not extend to all groups capable of bearing arms, and also that its purpose is not general mobilization or offensive planning against other areas.

A spokesman for these forces says that after 6 years of war, many generations have been brought up in a climate of anxiety and chaos, deprived of any form of national upbringing or discipline. Therefore it was necessary to make this step (which was basically one of the tasks of the Lebanese army) a general one for the sake of strengthening national feeling and adherence to Lebanon, especially in order to make young people act like responsible citizens enjoying good intellectual strength and civic education.

Training is the function of the Lebanese Armed Forces, which have assigned 550 trainers to the areas of Jubayl, Kasrawan, northern al-Matn and Beirut to take charge of training 17,000 students in the two years of the Lebanese undergraduate program, once a week, where they are given 5 hours of infantry training and 1 hour of orientation and indoctrination in each session. This means about 90 hours of training per year, with an additional summer session of 15 days in camp followed by a 30-day period of actual service.

These students subsequently will constitute reserve personnel, while the Lebanese Forces will remain the pillar of the combat forces and assult teams in the event fighting breaks out. The spokesman for the Lebanese Forces considers that the training this year will not include male students in the second two years of the Lebanese undergraduate program or girls, because the burden is heavy and the costs are extremely large. As to what is said regarding the conscription of young people who are not students and everyone below 50 years of age who is able to bear arms, nothing has been done with regard to them at all. It is impossible to investigate that even in the context of the government of the present time.

In response to queries about the position of the various minorities such as the Armenians, the Shiites in Jubayl and members of parties which do not belong to the Lebanese Front, such as the National Block, the Constitutionalists and so forth, the Lebanese Forces state that much consultation has taken place on various levels and in various regions and it has all led to agreement on military training in the national context which has been set forth, in which the characteristics of each group will be honored. The Armenian groups have not been affected at all -- in fact, the Lebanese Forces may have south the aid of Armenian traniners to solve the problem of language and comprehension. The Shiites in Jubayl have no objection to being trained in the use of weapons, and they are encouraged in this by the latest position of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, which has endorsed President Ilyas Sarkis' speeches to the diplomatic corps at the beginning of this year and at the Islamic Summit in al-Ta'if warning of the danger to the south.

The training of members of the Block, the Constitutionalists and people who are not party members will not compel them to join the parties of the National Front, but it will sanctify their right to obtain the rights of other party members to defend themselves.

The town of Zahlah still lies outside the compulsory training plan.

11887

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SHIPPING, IMPORTS, EXPORTS IN SOUTH REVIEWED

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Feb 81 p 6

/Article: "Economic Activity in the South in 1980 According to the Sayda Chamber"/

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sayda and the South has issued the annual statistical bulletin for 1980, including figures on exports and re-exports and cargo, ship, and customs duty activity in the port of Sayda. This bulletin is the first of its type to be issued by the chamber now that its necessary statistical equipment has been completed. Here are the indices on economic activity in the Southern Province as stated in it:

Lebanese Exports

The value of Lebanese exports whose certificates of origin were approved by the Sayda Chamber came to 49 million Lebanese pounds, as compared with 23 million pounds' worth of exports in 1979, or an increase of 110 percent in current prices and about 100 percent in fixed prices.

Exports whose certificates of origin were approved by the Sayda Chamber came to 4 percent of the value of Lebanese exports. One should bear in mind that certificates for about 15 percent of the exports from Sayda and the south were not approved by this chamber; these were fruit exports and Lebanese exports to the United States and some European countries.

Here is a table on the development of exports between 1979 and 1980 by month (values in thousands of Lebanese pounds):

Month	1979	1980
January	2,117	3,145
February	2,033	2,608
March	1,703	4,689
April	1,531	6,419
May	2,142	1,678
June	1,939	10,384
July	1,782	3,084
August	1,088	4,126

Month	1979	1980
September	1,706	4,055
October	2,682	3,523
November	1,883	1,656
December	2,332	4,014
Total	22,944	49,387

Exported Goods

The most important export categories were:

Construction materials (rock, tile and so forth): these came to 12.6 million pounds in value, or 25.5 percent of the total exports whose certificates of exports were approved.

Machinery, equipment and electrical appliances: their value came to 10 million pounds (21 percent) as compared with 2 million pounds in 1979.

Products of the vegetable kingdom: their value came to 8 and 7 million (18 percent).

Clothing and textiles: their value came to 5 million (10 percent) as compared with 2 million pounds in 1979.

It should be observed that textile industries recorded an increase in the second half of last year as a result of the start of work in a large textile plant whose output is mostly oriented toward West Germany.

In spite of the security situation dominant in the Southern Province, new types of industries appeared in 1980, including plastics, aluminum and electric percolators.

Here is a table on exports by customs list sections (value in thousands of Lebanese pounds);

Live animals and products	1,054
Vegetable kingdom products	8,756
Oils, paints and fats	1,373
Food industry products	1,947
Metal products	805
Chemical products	485
Resins and manmade plastics	1,885
Leather and leather products	1,389
Wood and wood products	490
Paper and paper products	91
Textiles	4,887
Shoes	253
Tile and rock	12,590
Metal and metal proudcts	1,408

Machinery and equipment	10,273
Transportation equipment	106
Opitcal equipment	3
Other goods	1,581
Total	49,387

Markets

Eighty percent of the exports of the south are oriented toward Arab markets. By a comparison with 1979, one may observe a regression in the percentage of exports to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates and a rise in those to Saudi Arabia, Iran and foreign countries.

Here is a table on exports by country (value in thousands of Lebanese pounds):

	Value	Percent
Saudi Arabia	29,695	60
Kuwait	1,367	3
Jordan	740	1
The emirates	3,764	8
Other foreign countries	3,590	7
Iran	6,779	14
Other foreign countries /sic/	3,450	7
Total	49,387	100

Re-exports

The value of exports of foreign origin confirmed by Sayda Chamber certificates dropped from 40,326,000 pounds in 1979 to 22,762,000 pounds in 1980, that is, by about 43 percent.

The most important re-exported commodities: electrical equipment, machinery and appliances (5 percent), vegetable kingdom products (55 percent), transportation equipment (7 percent), animal kingdom products (7 percent) and tile and porcelain products (9 percent).

As regards markets, it appears that the south plays an intermediary role between the countries of origin on various continents and the countries of destination in Asia and the Arab countries. Re-export activities are broken down by countries of origin, as follows: Asia, 4 percent, Africa, 10 percent, America, 21 percent, Europe, 30 percent, Comecon, 6 percent, and European countries, 29 percent.

They are broken down as follows by countries of destination: Asia, 22 percent, Arab countries, 78 percent.

The Port of Sayda

Activity in the Port of Sayda last year recorded a decline compared with 1979 and 1978, which experienced a record in view of the shutdown of the port of Beirut in the first half of that year.

The total number of commercial vessels visiting the port was 69, a drop of 34 percent from 1979.

The vessels bore the flags of nine countries, principally Lebanon, 33 vessels, Greece, 12, Cyprus, nine, and Panama, four. Most of these vessels are small and their capacity does not exceed 2,000 deadweight tons, except for some Greek ships which exceeded 5,000 tons.

These ships transported 73,405 tons, for a drop of 6 percent from 1979.

Greek ships occupied first place in the shipment of cargoes to the port of Sidon; their cargo came to 35,050 deadweight tons (40 percent of the total activity in the port), while Lebanese ships occupied second place, transporting 23,485 tons.

The most important cargoes unloaded in the port of Sidon were: fertilizer, 27,294 tons, cement, 13,525 tons, sesame, 6,278 tons, wood, 5,818 tons, rice, 2,699 tons, marble, 788 tons, watermelons, 237 tons, coffee, 927 tons.

The value of customs duties paid through the port of Sidon came to about 5.8 million pounds, or a drop of 46.3 percent from 1979.

11887

CSO: 4802

DEVELOPMENTS IN MOROCCAN POLICY IN WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 5 Mar 81 p 5

[Article: "The Speech by the King of Morocco and the Decision of the Pentagon"]

[Text] Due to their grave consequences, two pieces of information related to the Morocco-Sahrawi conflict, which has been going on for 5 years -- and in all likelihood linked together -- have caught the attention of observers: it concerns, on the one hand, the confirmation by the Rabat regime of its stubbornness in pursuing its expansionist adventure in the Western Sahara, and, on the other hand, the decision by the (American) Pentagon to increase the offensive arsenal of this aggressive regime.

While the Morocco-Sahrawi war continues, with its share of sacrifices imposed on the Moroccan people as well as on the Sahrawi people, the king of Morocco, in his speech from the throne, repeated assertions about this problem, the fallacious character of which however is obvious to public opinion. As a matter of fact, King Hassan II -- undoubtedly for reasons of domestic propaganda -- once again developed the same arguments through which he simply strives to deny the reality of the national Sahrawi fact, pretending to forget that the latter has been recognized and is duly taken into account by the big international forums, whether we are talking about, among others, the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations or the United Nations. Thus, he continues to entangle himself in the same three points trying to substantiate the worn out theses of the "Moroccanness" of the Western Sahara, of the "bilateral Moroccan-Algerian conflict," and of the "achievement" of control over the Sahrawi territory.

It is certainly not useful to dwell on these assertions which are scathingly denied by the international audience acquired by the Sahrawi people -- this was recently proven by the resounding celebration of the proclamation of the SDAR -- as well as on the ground where the Sahrawi people -- and they alone -- have forced the monarchist aggressor onto the defensive even on Moroccan territory, as has been noted by the world press. The Moroccan-Sahrawi war, which was triggered in November 1975 by the bellicose march referred to as the "green" march, is continuing, and the Rabat regime is in the process of losing it, as the course of history would dictate -- this being a struggle between monarchist oppression and the national aspirations of the Sahrawi people.

Further, this is precisely what the Pentagon announcement that it will supply 108 "M-60" tanks to Morocco has essentially confirmed. Because if, as it claims, Rabat had won the war against the Sahrawi combatants, why then this new order for offensive weapons?

As for the Pentagon decision itself, its serious character is obvious: by encouraging the monarchist aggressor in persisting in its expansionist aims, it gets in the way of the inescapable march of a people struggling for its independence, and it takes a position contrary to the principles, the peace efforts and the wishes of the world community which has come down in favor of the right of self-determination of this people. It contributes to the amplification of the noise of boots made by the Moroccan expeditionary corps and introduces a new aggravating factor to the tension maintained in the North-West region of Africa by the extension of the Moroccan-Sahrawi conflict.

As such implications certainly do not escape the new American administration, one might wonder about the motivations behind that decision. At a time when the American secretary of state, General Alexander Haig, is getting ready to start on a journey which is undoubtedly aimed at trying to revive the dying process of the Camp David Israeli-Egyptian agreements, should the decision then be seen as good marks given to Rabat for its contribution to the development of that process? Whatever the case, the supplying of these weapons would only give the Moroccan aggression a reprieve, as the Sahrawi cause is inexorably called to triumph. But the question of its motivations remains nonetheless.

8463
CSO: 4400

KING HASSAN SEEN TURNING TO FRANCE FOR SUPPORT

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 6-7 Mar 81 p 7

[Article: "Hassan II Visits Paris -- To What Purpose?"]

[Text] On Thursday, King Hassan II began a private 48 hour visit to Paris -- a visit which can only remind one of the visit made by the Moroccan monarch, nearly a year ago, to the French capital and which then occurred after Rabat suffered bitter military and diplomatic defeats in the conflict which sets it against the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

Observers in the French capital have noted that this new visit -- which they insist on referring to as "private" -- is taking place under the same circumstances, and they figure that the trip of the Moroccan king is tied directly to the Western Sahara conflict.

As a matter of fact, it is believed that King Hassan II -- whose visit is taking place on the eve of the French electoral campaign -- will once again ask Paris for increased military aid as he did once before during his visit in April 1980. At that time, the Moroccan king had ordered approximately 100 six wheel "AMX 10 RC" light weight armored vehicles with laser guided fire. In January of the same year, the Rabat regime had also ordered 24 "Gazelle" helicopters.

The successive defeats suffered by Rabat in recent months, both on the military and the diplomatic front, have once again led King Hassan II to turn to Paris, all the more so as this capital is not unfamiliar -- as the Sahrawi minister of defense recently stated -- with the "new royal strategy in the Western Sahara," that of the "notorious useful triangle."

"It is well known that the French and the Americans are behind that plan," noted Mr Brahim Ghali, who also stressed the conceit of such an operation which is already doomed to failure.

The same observers also figure that it is the bitter defeats suffered by the invasion troops in trying to set up this so-called "useful triangle," which have led the king of Morocco to make such a journey, as he did last April following the big defeat at Ouarkziz, all the more so as the announcement of this surprise visit was kept a secret until the last minute.

Finally, one cannot fail to note that this new visit by the Moroccan monarch to Paris comes at the same time as the decision by the American administration to supply Morocco with 108 M-60 tanks.

This, the observers believe, is a coincidence which is far from being fortuitous and which conveys the disarray of a monarch with his back to the wall begging both for increased military aid and "advice" from its Western allies.

8463
CSO: 4400

SUPREME PEOPLE'S COUNCIL CONVENES SEVENTH SESSION

Aden 14 OCTOBER in Arabic 20 Jan 81 pp 1,4

[Article: "'Ali Nasir Muhammad Issues Press Communique on Seventh Session of People's Supreme Council; Council Reviews Important Issues and Ratifies Number of Agreements and Resolutions; In Political Report Presented to Seventh Session of People's Supreme Council, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Urges Planning, Economic and Industrial Authorities and Labor Unions to Exert Major Efforts to Rally Workers Behind Work and Production Initiative; We Will Remain Eager for Continued Dialogue Between Two Sections so as to Achieve Our People's Aspirations for Stability, Progress and Unity; Democratic Yemen Which Has Supported Soviet Plan for Gulf Peoples' Security and Stability Will Continue to Wage Struggle for Peace of Area's Other Peoples"]

[Text] The Supreme People's Council concluded yesterday afternoon the proceedings of its seventh ordinary session which started in the morning under the chairmanship of comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the Central Committee general secretary, the chairman of the presidium of the Supreme People's Council and the prime minister.

Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad opened the session in the name of the revolution and of the people and the council observed a minute's silence for the Yemeni revolution martyrs, considering that convocation of the session yesterday, 19 January, coincided with the anniversary of the ill-fated British occupation of our country in 1839.

The agenda was then read and approved after introduction of the appropriate additions to it.

The council members then heard the political report submitted by comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The report dealt with the various political, economic, military, cultural and social problems, with the future of our Yemeni people's unity in the two sections of the homeland, with economic integration between them, with the activities of the joint unification committees between the two sections and with coordination between the leaderships of the two sections in the various spheres and at all levels for restoration of the democratic Yemeni unity.

During the two working sessions which it held yesterday, the Supreme People's Council examined the other items listed in the agenda, including the report evaluating the 1980 working plan of the Supreme People's Council and of its presidium, the unified general budget and its bill, the 1981 investment plan and its bill, the imports and supply bill, the civil defense bill, the general reserve bill, the judiciary fees bill and its explanatory note, the bill on retirement and compensation in the military

establishment, the bill on the welfare of martyrs' families and the liberation war strugglers. The council approved the formation of a committee to draft this bill in its final form so that it may be issued in the first week of the coming month of February on occasion of the martyrs day. The council also heard the Legal Committee's observations on the bills.

The council members took a serious look at these issues and at the bills included in the agenda, enriching them with discussions and with positive observations that reflect the deep sense of responsibility among these members. The council members dealt with the various legal, political and material aspects of these issues. The Supreme People's Council also approved the decrees issued by the presidium in the period between the council's sixth and seventh sessions and pertaining to the financial aid agreement between the PDRY and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The council also ratified the protocol on expanding economic cooperation between the PDRY and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The council also approved the creation of the state information committee which will be under the control of the Council of Ministers and will be concerned with the radio and television, with the 14 October Establishment and the 14 OCTOBER newspaper and with the Aden Press Agency after abolition of the State Radio and Television Committee. The council also approved the nomination of a chairman for this committee.

The council further approved withdrawal of the Supreme People's Council membership from 'Ali Salim al-Bayd and Malaki 'Abdallah for their violation of the family law and has decided to separate them, considering that their marriage contract is null and void. The council also approved the dismissal of 'Ali Salim al-Bayd from his position as deputy prime minister.

During the council's session, the members stressed the importance of the issues presented to the session and appreciated highly the role played by the Yemeni Socialist Party and by the revolution government in the life of the toilers in order to develop the living standard of the citizens, to entrench the mainstays of national independence, to protect the revolution's accomplishments, to enhance the combat capability of our valiant armed forces and to provide care for and enhance the life of the families of the Yemeni revolution martyrs and of the liberation war strugglers. The council also lauded the principled firm positions taken by the Democratic Yemen in supporting the Arab nation's causes and the Arab Palestinian people's cause within the framework of the Arab League and of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and lauded the Democratic Yemen's confrontation of all imperialist, Zionist, reactionary and racist schemes and the Camp David schemes. The council also lauded the development of the relations of friendship between the Democratic Yemen and the socialist bloc countries.

Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad issued a press communique at the conclusion of the Supreme People's Council session (text of statement on page 4).

During the seventh Supreme People's Council session yesterday, comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the Central Committee general secretary, the chairman of the Supreme People's Council presidium and the prime minister, submitted a political report to the session in which he reviewed the most important local, Arab and international issues.

We publish in the following the text of the political report.

Dear brother representatives of the people:

It is a source of happiness to me that we are holding our council's seventh session with the onset of the new year of 1981. On this occasion, permit me to congratulate you from the bottom of my heart and to wish you health and happiness, being confident that you will devote your efforts to make 1981 a year abounding with new successes that lead our people forward on the path of progress and prosperity.

Brother representatives, you know that since the conclusion of the special session of our Yemeni Socialist Party and the previous People's Council session, the country has witnessed a number of measures and that a number of laws, regulations and decrees have been issued to organize the activity of the state agency and to realize further political, economic and social transformations in the interest of our people's masses. We would like to point out here that the issuance of such laws as the illiteracy eradication law, the law organizing the courts, the law to protect the environment from pollution, the income tax law and other laws constitute another step that we have taken to bolster the legal and revolutionary legitimacy of our democratic national regime that reflects the will and aspirations of the workers and the toilers. In light of the instructions of our council, our government has adopted a number of measures to keep this year the prices of popular consumer goods and of essential commodities stable and unaffected by the fluctuations of the international market. This is compatible with the instructions of our leader party that seek constant improvement in the people's life. In this session, we will discuss a number of bills and other issues. These bills are of major importance insofar as the government's future activity is concerned.

The unified general budget and its bill which stipulates merging the administrative and developmental expenditures make it possible for the government to exercise control and to make sure that the allocations are spent for the purposes for which they are appropriated. Moreover, the 1981 investment plan and its bill inaugurate the first year of the modified second five-year plan. The planning, economic and industrial authorities, the unions and the officials in charge of projects must exert big efforts to enlist the workers in the work and production contests so that the projects of the first year of the plan may be implemented ahead of schedule.

Dear brothers,

Our Yemeni Socialist Party devotes attention not only to the issue of developing the national economy but also to bolstering our people's defense capability so that they may proceed safely, on the path of revolutionary transformations and may be able to repel the schemes of the imperialist enemies and their agents.

You have before you in this session the civil defense bill and the general reserve bill. It must be said that ratification of the two bills puts on the shoulders of the people's representatives in the state agencies and in the popular organizations the responsibility of organizing, mobilizing and training the masses for civil defense purposes and for the general reserve. If we shoulder the responsibility of defending our revolution and our regime against the encroachments of the enemies, then we shoulder at the same time the responsibility of providing care for those who have fallen on the revolution path in defense of the homeland and of the revolution. The

bill on pension and compensations in the military organizations and the bill on the welfare of the families of martyrs and of strugglers of the liberation war reflect our council's appreciation and gratitude for the revol.tion's martyrs, defenders and strugglers. These bills also reflect the duty of honoring and venerating their role and of creating the best circumstances for their families and children to live a life befitting their role in the struggle.

Brother representatives,

In the period between the council's two sessions, we have continued to bolster the contacts between the two sections of the homeland. A number of issues concerning the future unity of our people have been discussed and the joint unification committees have continued their meetings in light of their program. At the economic level, a number of unified [joint] Yemeni companies have been formed. It is certain that while playing a role in the economic life of our country, Yemen, these companies will constitute the start for a later development that will serve the utilization of our national resources and the Yemeni economic integration. However, while we continue to exert our efforts in both sections for the just reunification of our people, we must be constantly vigilant and alert to the plots and evil intentions of the imperialist and reactionary forces against this unity. We are still convinced that the enemies of unity form a long column that will not hesitate to use various plots to sow discord between the two sections and to drag them to the circle of tension and infefighting. Yemeni unity requires not only foiling the opportunity of these enemies but also requires all those who are eager for the realization of this unity to rally our Yemeni people's masses and to involve them in the struggle for unity so that the path to this unity may become a peaceful, democratic and popular path that forms the firm foundation for the Yemen that is united democratically. In this regard, we will remain eager for continued dialogue between the two sections in order to achieve our people's aspirations for stability, development and unity.

Brothers,

Foreign activity has occupied an important place in the work agenda of the government and of its various agencies. We have continued to follow the path of developing the relations with the neighboring countries through the exchange of delegation visits and through the conclusion of economic and social cooperation agreements based on mutual respect and understanding. We would like to say that our endeavors to create good relations and an atmosphere full of peace and stability for all the area's states are proceeding on a right path that seeks to serve the policy of peaceful coexistence. But we must say at the same time that these endeavors are still encountering obstacles that some circles place in the path of the area's stability with the aim of pushing the area to the brink of tension and armed conflicts. We mean by these circles the countries, such as Oman and Somalia, that have permitted the US imperialism to set up military bases in their territories in order to threaten the area's countries and their sovereignty and national independence.

The danger of imperialist intervention is now appearing in the area since the US imperialism declared that it considers the Gulf area an important sphere of its strategic interests, since it started forming a rapid deployment force and since it intensified the presence of its military fleets in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. The muscle flexing in which the United States is engaged has received a response from some lackey parties that revolve in the US orbit and that exploit their propaganda trumpets to scare the area's peoples with the alleged danger of Soviet intervention.

The facts were clearly revealed to the area's peoples when the Soviet Union took its initiative regarding the security, stability and peace of the Gulf peoples. This initiative has received the support of all the circles concerned with the area's future, security and stability. The Democratic Yemen which has supported the Soviet plan will continue to wage the struggle for peace for the other peoples of the area and will work side by side with the countries that aspire to destroy the foreign military bases and that are eager to preserve national sovereignty and independence, not to interfere in the domestic affairs of others and to respect the independent development path of all the countries.

If the imperialists are exerting feverish efforts to drag the area to the sea of crises and armed conflicts, then the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran has intensified the tension in the area and has enabled the imperialists to exploit this war in the interest of their aggressive plans. It is obvious that the war has caused destruction and loss not only to the economy of the two countries and the two peoples but has caused the two countries to need numerous years to rebuild what has been destroyed economically. The Democratic Yemen still abides by the position it declared when the war erupted, namely the need for both sides to put an end to the war and to resort to the logic of dialogue and understanding to solve disputed issues peacefully and in a manner that preserves the relations of good neighborhood and respect for national sovereignty. This is the logical path that will foil the opportunity for the imperialists who are lurking for the area and this is the path that will create better conditions for cooperation among our countries for the sake of stability and peace.

Brother council members,

One of the issues to which we have continued to devote major attention in our political activity is the Middle East issue. We have exerted efforts and made a number of contacts with the Arab countries either within the framework of the Arab League or within the framework of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. It is necessary to point out that the Democratic Yemen refused to take part in the 11th Arab summit in Amman for reasons which we explained in our official statement at the time. Our position was fully compatible with the logic of things because the conferees called for convocation of the conference in the absence of Palestine, the party concerned with the fundamental issue, in addition to the absence of Syria, Lebanon and the other parties of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. Moreover, there was no possibility for the adoption of new resolutions that are more advanced than the resolutions of the preceding Arab summits. Since the Baghdad summit which meted out just punishment to the treasonous al-Sadat regime in Egypt and the Tunis summit which emerged with less effective resolutions, not even the minimum of what was agreed upon has been implemented. Some of the member Arab states still refuse to implement the resolutions concerning boycotting al-Sadat regime. Moreover, the US imperialism, which gives the Zionist regime in the occupied Palestine generous grants of financial aid and weapons, finds numerous Arab hands that pat it on the back and that consider it a friend of the Arabs. Regardless of how complex our Arab situation is, we will continue to march on the path of the firm principles in which we have believed. We support Arab solidarity, but only the solidarity that leads to foiling the aggressive Camp David scheme through the adoption of practical measures against the three parties to Camp David and against those who revolve in their sphere. Forcing the Zionist occupiers to withdraw from our occupied lands requires boycotting not only al-Sadat regime but also boycotting the US imperialism, the enemy of peace in the area. This is why the Democratic Yemen will continue to raise its voice for using all the weapons

at the disposal of our Arab nation, including the oil weapon, in order to restore our occupied lands and the Palestinian people's rights, especially their right to establish their independent state under the leadership of the PLO whose struggle we will continue to support. Those who attach hopes to the new leadership in the American White House are again falling the captive of the illusion and are intentionally disregarding the statements of the new US leaders on the continued friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Zionist enemy.

Dear Brothers,

During the preceding period, our foreign relations have made new strides. A delegation from the Libyan Jamahiriyah visited our country under the chairmanship of brother 'Amr al-Maqsi and a cooperation agreement was concluded with Libya. Brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the brother secretary general of the Arab League have also visited us. At another level, it can be said that our relations with the socialist Ethiopia are developing steadily. Brother Mengistu Haile Mariam, the chairman of the Provisional Administrative Military Council, has visited our country and the instruments ratifying the friendship and cooperation treaty have been exchanged. On the other hand, we have established diplomatic representation for our country in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Malagasi and Guinea-Bissau.

Our country has also continued to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the socialist countries. It has received Pal Losonczi, the president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic; Stanko Todorov, the chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers; and General Giapp, the prominent Vietnamese personality. Inasmuch as we have exchanged delegation visits in the various spheres of cooperation, we have also concluded a number of agreements and protocols with the Soviet Union, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia in the spheres of economic, technical, cultural, industrial and scientific cooperation.

While expressing our satisfaction for the growth and expansion of relations with the socialist countries, we are very well aware of the value that these relations gain in the course of the struggle against the forces of imperialism and agression. We are confident that the future will witness broader activity in the interest of bolstering these relations. It must be said that we appreciate highly the honorable aid given to us by the socialist bloc countries, led by the Soviet Union. We also laud the honest aid that our brothers give us to realize the goals of social progress.

At the level of Arab and international parliamentary relations, our country has taken part in the meetings of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council and the meetings of the 67th conference of the International Parliamentary Union and we have exchanged parliamentary experiences with a number of fraternal and friendly countries.

Brothers, while presenting to you our efforts in the period between the two sessions, we assert that we will all unite our efforts to realize the tasks and duties entrusted to us by our Yemeni Socialist Party and by our struggling people who have given us their confidence to lead them toward the goals of progress and prosperity.

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CSO: 4802

VEGETABLE OILS FACTORY ASSESSED

Aden SAWT AL-'UMMAL in Arabic 15 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by Sa'id Muhammad 'Abdallah: "SAWT AL-'UMMAL in Vegetable Oils Factory; State Subsidy of 30 Dinars Per Barrel of Oil; Plant Faces Two Problems of Seeds and Marketing"]

[Text] The productivity of work is ultimately the main and more important factor insofar as the triumph of the new social system is concerned. Increased work productivity is reflected in increased production and in reduced costs per unit of the product. With these very mature words and with this modest phrase that is big in its significance and meaning, brother Muhammad Qasim Hasan, the acting general manager of the Vegetable Oils Factory in al-Mansurah, started his statements to me on the conditions of the factory and the progress of work in it.

In all honesty, I felt during my conversation with him that he enjoys a high level of responsibility and has a mature intellectual background, in addition to the comradely attitude he displays toward the workers and which I felt during my presence with him. Following is the outcome of this interview:

Factory Operation

The Vegetable Oils Factory was designed and built with the aid of the GDR and started operating in May 1979. The maximum production capacity is estimated at 40 tons of cotton seed oil. The factory is supplied with the seed by the cotton gin in Abyan Governorate in season.

1981 Plan

The plan set for the first quarter of 1981--January, February and March--is as follows:

Raw seed volume: 32,835 sacks.

Refined oil: 264 tons.

Factory's Production Capacity:

The factory's production capacity is embodied in the following:

First, 54 percent sap ['usar] containing 6-7 percent oil and costing 25 dinars per ton. It is sold to the livestock resources [department?].

Second, 27 percent shell containing 1-(1.5) percent oil and costing 40 dinars per ton.

The oil is sold to the Trade Company at a price of 63 dinars per barrel.

The value per barrel of oil is 95 dinars but it is sold for only 63 dinars and the state subsidizes the rest from the treasury.

Some Concerns and Difficulties:

Regarding the factory's concerns and difficulties, brother Muhammad Qasim Hasan, the factory's acting general manager, has said:

The factory faces some difficulties, the most significant being the unavailability of enough seeds locally to keep the factory in operation throughout the year at the current production capacity which has reached a maximum of 15 tons in two shifts. We should keep in mind that the quantity of seeds stored by the Abyan Delta Development Authority in 1980 was estimated at 1,500 tons only. This quantity will not exceed 3,600 tons in the best seasons. This means that with the proposed capacity, the factory will operate for only 6 months a year due to the impossibility of importing raw materials from abroad.

The failure to operate the seasame [oil] line that has been agreed upon.

The factory's small maximum production which has amounted to only 15 tons daily, keeping in mind that the factory is designed to produce 40 tons daily.

The plant was designed without taking into consideration including a packaging unit. This requires us to obtain empty barrels to supply the market with the factory's oils regularly. Obtaining these barrels requires vast efforts and followup with the retail stores in all parts of Aden and the number of barrels obtained is inadequate when compared with the production plans. This has led to keeping the oil in the storage reservoirs and we now have enough refined oil to fill 1,070 barrels and to be marketed immediately. If we exert intense efforts to get these barrels, we can only get no more than 100 barrels monthly.

However, we are about to solve this problem by obtaining plastic containers from some factories. This is a temporary solution and we hope that the issue of the packaging unit will be settled.

As for the raw materials, especially the inadequacy of the quantity of seeds available to meet the factory's capacity, the solution lies in expanding the acreage cultivated with long-staple cotton so that we may produce according to the plans.

Thanks and Appreciation

Concluding his sattement, brother Muhammad Qasim Hasan said: Permit me to laud the firm relationship between us and the Ministry of Industry resulting from the ministry's understanding and from its serious efforts to solve many of the complex issues pertaining to the plant.

We also hope that you will convey our greetings to the brother officials in the General Federation of [Labor] Unions. We would also like to stress our thanks and appreciation for SAWT AL-'UMMAL.

Tour in Factory

We then tourred the various sections of the factory. In the laboratory, we met with brother Muhammad Fadl, the laboratory chief, who graduated from Yugoslavia and who has been working in the laboratory for the past 5 years. This laboratory is considered one of the most modern laboratories for conducting the necessary analyses on food industries.

Muhammad Fadl talked about the tasks performed by the quality control section which comprises the laboratory. He has summed up these tasks in the following:

1. Take part in preparing the factory's production plan.

2. Link the section's work plan with the production plan.

3. Check quality during the phases of production.

4. Exert efforts to reduce accidents.

5. Compare the specifications of the final products with the approved specifications.

6. Take part with the purchases committee in determining the qualities of the materials to be obtained to make sure that they are compatible with the production conditions.

7. Prepare a plan to collect samples for analysis.

8. Prepare and train the section workers internally and abroad.

Brother Salih Nasir, the factory's administrative supervisor, points out the good relationship between the management and the forms of struggle [sic]. He also points out the difficulty of marketing the production and the problem of acquiring empty barrels.

In the refining section, we had a brief encounter with brother Mahmud Salih Fadl, the unionist committee secretary. The crude oil produced by the pressing section is refined here in this section.

As for the industrial safety means in the factory, we found that the workers wear masks and gloves and that ventilation and lighting in the factory sections are good. As for the steam unit which supplies the refining section and other sections with steam, we found that the room needs better ventilation and that it is necessary to open a window to allow the circulation of air. This is insofar as industrial safety is concerned.

8494
CSO: 4802

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR, SOLAR POWER REVIEWED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 1 Mar 81 p 4

/Article: "Comrade Qaddurah Discusses Subjects of Inaugurating Power Projects and Means for Using Solar Energy"/

/Text/ Comrade 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, chaired a meeting this morning which included the ministers of electricity, oil and housing and the director general of the Atomic Energy Authority.

In the course of this meeting, issues bearing on the inuaguration of energy projects, consumption of all types, and ways of using solar energy to heat water for household used were discussed. It was also decided to hold a meeting to be organized by the Ministry of Housing in the fifth month of this year under the supervision of the Arab League to discuss ways of using solar energy.

In addition, the Higher Energy Committee will continue to hold periodic meetings to discuss the subject of energy and energy consumption.

In commenting on this item of news, AL-BA'TH's local news editor refers to the exceptional importance underlying the turn toward new energy projects based on solar radiation.

Electric power consumption in our country is increasing at a large rate every day, and it is clear that the sources of water that can be used to obtain electricity are very minor. While the electric plant in the Euphrates Dam was providing 95 percent of Syria's electricity consumption when its operation started, it is not providing more than 70 percent today, as a result of increased consumption. Thus the solutions proposed for obtaining electricity are based either on oil or the atom.

As regards the oil solution, the high prices of oil automatically lead to high electricity prices.

The nuclear solution is difficult and risky. If we want to erect a nuclear plant to generate electricity today we must wait at least 10 years for the plant to be completed, at a time when we find that many frightening breakdowns are taking place in nuclear reactors, even in the advanced countries - the most famous of which

was the episode of the shutdown of the cooling units in the massive nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in America, an episode which frightened all of America.

To this one should add the point that our fuel consumption is also increasing greatly. We are considered the top country in the world in the terms of gasoline consumption relative to the population. The Syrian treasury defrays the sum of 2.5 billion pounds to subsidize heavy fuel oil.

This all prompts us to think of alternate sources to oil, of which perhaps the best is solar energy, which will never run out.

Since 1830, solar energy has been used in the heating field in some countries of the world. Research bearing on the use of solar energy has witnessed great development in recent years, and devices have been produced which make space and, water heating and pump water more cheaply than oil /does/. Scientists expect that acquiring electricity from plants operating on solar power will become cheaper than plants operating on distillates in the next few years. It is clear that reliance on the sun for space and water heating will reduce our consumption of gas and heavy fuel oil. In this context, the call to establish a national industry for appliances using solar power acquires great importance, especially since the next few years will be witnessing intense receptivity to these appliances, which will make us fall prey to hard currency imports if we do not have a local industry capable of providing market requirements. In that context, AL-BA'TH's local affairs editor praises the pilot experiment the Ministry of Electricity adopted in our country when it established a pilot plant to produce electricity by solar energy.

11887

CSO: 4802

DEMOCRATIC FRONT LEADER SAYS GOVERNMENT OBSTRUCTING DIALOGUE

Sharjah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 23 Jan 81 p 6

[Interview With Yahya al-Shami, Deputy Chairman of North Yemen's Democratic National Front; "Deputy Chairman of Yemeni Democratic National Front Speaks to AL-KHALIJ on Issues of Dialogue and Conflict in Yemen; Security Men Assassinate Our Cadres and Army Attacks Our Masses; We Deal With Government With Utter Flexibility Because We Are Eager for Yemen's Interest; We Reached Three Agreements With Government in One Year But None Have Been Implemented"]

[Text] Kuwait--Reports from Yemen on the relationship between the government of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Democratic National Front which includes the leftist parties in the northern section of Yemen are conflicting. While the front declares that its military bases and its masses are subjected to large-scale attacks by the religious tribal alliance and by the army, the Yemeni government denies that anything of the sort has happened and asserts that stability prevails in all parts of Yemen.

Whereas the front declares that its cadres and elements are subjected to acts of assassination and arrest by the security agencies and halts its participation in the activities of the National Dialogue Committee, the government declares that the national dialogue is moving steadily in the direction of establishing national unity so as to devote the efforts of all Yemenis to the battle of construction and development.

With this big contradiction in the declared positions, questions are raised regarding the procession of unity between the two sections of Yemen. Where have the meetings between Aden and San'a' reached and what are the effects of the struggle in the north on the issue of unity with the south?

The following interview with Yahya al-Shami, the deputy chairman of North Yemen's Democratic National Front, sheds light on the course of the struggle and the dialogue in Yemen and presents the front's view on the various issues emanating from the question of the relationship between the front and the government of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

[Question] The official statements in San'a' are in conflict with the statements of the Democratic National Front leaders on the outbreak of clashes between the front's forces and bases on the one hand and the tribal and religious alliance forces on the other.

What is the truth, what are the causes of these clashes and what is the president's position toward them?

[Answer] The truth is that the government in the north has, on external urging and instigation, moved far from the language of peaceful democratic dialogue--which is something the front has urged and continues to urge--and has replaced it by the use of comprehensive armed violence against the country's democratic national renaissance which is led by the Democratic National Front.

The causes behind this trans mation are the fact that during the periods of tranquillity the front has been able to bolster its influence among the people and the fact that the people have begun to comprehend and support the front's political line which is based on struggle to bolster the national sovereignty, to realize democracy, to achieve Yemen's unity democratically and peacefully and to eliminate the country's deteriorating social and economic crisis reflected in intensified manifestations of misery among the broad popular sectors and in increased food prices and housing rents. The front has been calling for improving the people's living standard.

All this has aroused the anger of the alliance forces with both their tribal and compradorial bourgeois wings which started sometime ago to cast the national economy in a purely commercial mold. Agriculture has thus come to represent only 15 percent of Yemen's national economy and this means the deterioration of the traditional agricultural production. Moreover, industry represents only three percent of our country's total economy.

Because of all of this, the authority has resorted to the use of armed violence and there is no doubt that military operations of this kind and at such a large scale do not take place without a decision to which President 'Ali "Abdallah Salih is the main contributor.

This is at the domestic level. As for the foreign level, the campaign against the front is not remote from the imperialist assault scheme against the Arab countries. This, of course, is not isolated from the violent assault aimed against the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.

[Question] What is your visualization of the future of the struggle and of the dialogue in North Yemen?

[Answer] We are not optimistic that the forces which stand behind the military campaigns against the front and its masses will abandon the language of violence. But this fighting will come to an end through popular resistance led by the front. We are exerting efforts and pressure with the various means in this direction and we expect that certain circles in the government will realize the danger of persisting on this bloody path.

We would like the domestic and foreign circles to understand that resorting to arms in the dialogue with the masses and with the political forces, led by the front, will not suppress the Democratic Front but will rather strengthen it and will not weaken the resolution of the masses to struggle under the front's leadership to bolster the national sovereignty and to realize democracy in the country.

in the current phase, we call for a return to the 31 January 1980 agreement which, in our opinion, constitutes the right inlet to solving the current political crisis in the country. We have urged the government directly to return to this agreement in the message which the front leadership sent to the chairman of the joint committee emanating from the 21 August 1980 agreement and the message we sent with the San'a' delegation which visited Aden last month and which included in its membership Lt Col 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Burti, the army chief of staff; Lt Col Husayn al-Baf'i, the president's adviser for unity affairs; and Ahmad al-Shajani, the minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs.

We asked this delegation that the crisis be solved on the basis of the 31 January agreement and stated specifically that for matters to subside, the military campaigns must be stopped as an essential condition for resuming the dialogue with the government.

We expect the government to return to its senses and we urge the wise and realistic elements, be they in the government's civilian or military agency, to shoulder their responsibilities in adopting the patriotic position that spares the country the tribulations of war and blood.

[Question] Does this mean that the activities of the National Dialogue Committee are at a complete standstill presently? What are the phases which the committee covered before coming to a halt?

[Answer] Insofar as the front is concerned, it has no actual presence in the National Dialogue Committee as a result of the current political crisis with its military character, especially since the security agencies assassinated Medical Officer Maj 'Abd-al-Salam al-Rudayni in San'a'. He was one of the front's prominent leaders, one of the front's representatives in the dialogue and a permanent negotiator in San'a'. He was also one of the prominent military commanders who defended the September revolution. For these reasons, the front has no presence in the dialogue [committee] currently. Moreover, the present events indicate that the other current intends to pass the draft national charter in its present form and that it is not ready to accept the other opinions.

Before the dialogue came to an actual halt, all that was done in the national dialogue sessions was the adoption of some organizational measures and the formation of subcommittees emanating from the National Dialogue Committee. However, the Democratic National Front has not been able to take part in the proceedings of this committee.

The ordinary citizen in our country no longer accepts what is said or what the information media say about the state's eagerness for the national dialogue at a time when he feels with his own eyes the unjustifiable large-scale military campaigns against five of the 10 governorates forming the northern section of Yemen and when he sees that the government did not hesitate to shell the popular conference which was held on 9-10 [presumably January 1981] in the northern part of San'a' Governorate--a conference which the government aircraft bombed.

In the light of this, the dialogue through this committee has reached a deadend and has no future.

[Question] As long as this is your conviction, then why don't you confront the military campaigns as you did in February 1979?

[Answer] We have not lost our faith in the suitability of the unarmed political struggle. We are exerting efforts to make the struggle assume a peaceful character. When we engage in armed violence at present, we only do so within the concept of defense against armed attacks.

It is well-known that the form of struggle is not determined by one side and that the position of the other side plays a role in determining the forms of struggle. As long as the reactionary forces are determined to use armed violence to liquidate the front and to suppress the masses; democratic aspirations, then we are compelled to defend ourselves and our masses in the same way.

[Question] In the light of these military operations, how are the activities of unionist coordination between the two sections of Yemen proceeding?

[Answer] In our evaluation, we are constantly encouraging the dialogue between the governments of the two sections of Yemen because it is in Yemen's interest for the dialogue to continue and for all the possible coordination and cooperation steps to be taken in the various spheres in order to implement the agreements and the declarations made by the governments of both sections. It is also our evaluation that this dialogue represents a base for movement toward unity.

But this dialogue also does not please the forces hostile to Yemen's unity. We fear that these forces will, in an attempt to overcome the intensifying national and democratic struggle in the north, escalate the current political crisis in the north, will resort to what is called exporting unrest and will provoke a crisis between the two sections.

We believe that the vigilance of the masses in the north and the vigilance of the realistic and rational elements in the government is capable of keeping such a crisis between the two sections from escalating.

[Question] What are the provisions of last August's agreement and what are the circumstances that led to concluding it?

[Answer] This agreement came under the following circumstances:

We felt that the forces hostile to the front, both inside and outside the government, were trying to put up the Muslim Brotherhood to fight the front. Proceeding on the basis of the 31 January 1980 agreement and the May 1980 agreement, we discussed this new attempt with the government and expressed our concern over the new endeavor to create problems and to undermine security and stability and over the harm represented in moving away from the peaceful dialogue for solving the political crisis.

However, matters proceeded in the direction of encouraging this brotherhood and its likes to launch an armed conflict against the front. This compelled us to strike the armed attack which was launched in the northern part of the central province. We had tried earlier to make the government carry out its duty in maintaining security and stability but the government turned a blind eye to what was happening.

After this brotherhood was defeated, we were surprised by a large-scale government campaign in the same area, a campaign in which large infantry forces and tank battalions took part. We then started to feel that we were facing a scheme aimed at striking the front at a large scale.

We called for dialogue with the government to settle the explosive crisis and exerted every possible effort to contain it. We discussed the position vis-a-vis the 11 January agreement and the May 1980 agreement. As a precondition for implementing this [sic] agreement, the government demanded that the front's radio, newspaper--AL-YAMAN--and secret pamphlets be stopped. Out of our desire to spare the country the tragedies of war and destruction and to foil the opportunity for the warmongers and for the foreign forces watching the detonation of problems in our country, we agreed to and actually implemented this condition.

But as you see, despite the flexibility we displayed in the latest agreement, Dr al-Rudaynl was assassinated only one week after the agreement. He was strangled to death with two of his brothers in the security cells of San'a'.

Despite this, we are still abiding by the August agreement. The radio and the newspaper are shut down and we have agreed to publish a personal [presumably meaning privately owned] newspaper to express the front's viewpoint. The license for its publication states that it shall operate under full censorship. This being the case, the newspaper cannot express the front's viewpoint.

[Question] Let us return to the May agreement?

[Answer] The May agreement stipulates the following:

First, putting an end to the fighting which erupted at the time when the government launched an armed attack on Ta'izz Governorate and another on Abb Governorate.

Second, investigating the individual and collective assassination acts aimed against the front's cadres and elements.

Third, releasing the detained cadres and elements of the front and refraining from any further arrests.

But nothing of the sort has happened so far.

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POSSIBILITIES OF UNIFYING COUNTRY IN 1981 EXAMINED

Sharjah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 23 Jan 81 p 3

[Article by 'Abd-al-Mawla Murshid: "Will 1981 Be Year of Yemen's Unification; Six Objective Factors Pointing Toward Unity"]

[Text] The Arab and foreign information media have gotten used to calling the two sections of Yemen as the two Yemens: North Yemen and South Yemen or as the two republics of the Arab Yemen and the Democratic Yemen. Those using these names justify their use by stating that the two sections of Yemen are still two sovereign states recongized internationally and each has its diplomatic representation. However, the issue is totally different to the citizen, to the information and culture media and to the arts and literature of the Yemeni national movement which calls the two parts of Yemen the two sections of Yemen or the southern section and the northern section of Yemen. There is no doubt that these names have their historical and national justifications and their unionist indications. They penetrate deep into the conscience of the Yemeni people and inspire them to continue the struggle and to sacrifice for reunification of the divided homeland.

Homeland Divided, People United

The Yemeni homeland has been occupied and divided at different periods of history. Parts of North Yemen, including the historical capital San'a', were under Turkish occupation from the 19th century until 1918. After the departure of the Turks, the imam's kingdom was founded and continued to exist until its downfall in 1962. South Yemen, including the important historical port of Aden, remained under British protection and occupation until 1967.

In this period and until the mid-1970's, the time which coincides with the regime of Rubayyi' and with the obstructive measures and the obstacles put in the face of citizen movement from the south to the north, the Yemeni people never felt divided or separated because the Yemeni citizen continued to travel between the various parts of Yemen and to settle in any city or village he wanted without any restrictions or obstacles. The citizen was aware that his homeland was divided only as a result of colonialism, of the conditions of backwardness and of the suppression of the imams. Consequently, the national movement grew and put an end to the imams' rule in 1962 and ousted colonialism in 1967. The people then heaved a sigh of relief and thought that they had eliminated the main obstacles obstructing the unity of their homeland. But after hard suffering, the people realized that the path was still long and that the night was still gloomy.

Every Innovation a Fault

The obstructive measures hampering travel between the two sections of Yemen which the regime of Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali innovated in the mid-1970's were one of the most serious precedents and most misguided innovations in the Yemeni political history. Those measures added another obstacle in the face of the Yemeni homeland's and people's unity. This is why the unionists within the National Front and outside it had to strengthen their resolution to correct the faulty actions.

Cultural Split

In addition to trying to divide the Yemeni people, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali's regime also tried to divide their national culture and their historical heritage, creating the so-called split of culture and of the national heritage under the guise of the cultural revolution in the Maoist style--a revolution overlooking the identity of the Yemeni people's culture and historical heritage.

This is why that regime tried to split the Union of Yemeni Writers and Authors and why it formed a journalistic organization exclusively for the south. At the same time, that regime curbed the aspirations of the professional and social organizations to be re-formed with the consolidated efforts of similar professional and social organizations in the north.

But despite those separatist innovations and actions, it has become evident with tangible proof that the life of separation and partition is short and evanescent and that of unity and unification is longer and more lasting. God's words that "the froth dries up and that which is beneficial stays in the earth" are true.

Means of Realizing Unity

In the 1970's in 1972 and in 1978 specifically, two fierce wars erupted between the two sections of Yemen under the motives and justifications of realizing unity. After failing to achieve this goal, the method of dialogue and of understanding replaced [the wars]. Several agreements were thus concluded, including the Cairo agreement, the Tripoli declaration, the Qu'tubah (in Yemen) declaration and the Kuwait agreement which calls for setting up unification committees and for the exchange of visits to pave the way for realizing unity.

Is War Imminent

An observer of Yemeni affairs believes that war between the two sections of Yemen is imminent, citing two indicators: The boring prolongation of the proceedings of the unification committees whose activities have become very much like the suffering of (Cesyphus). Even though the Kuwait treaty set a period of one year for the realization of unity, almost 2 years have passed and no sign of this unity has yet appeared. This means that the method of caution [sic] and understanding has failed to realize unity.

The second indicator is the abrogation of the treaty concluded between the San'a' regime and the Democratic National Front. This abrogation may create complications throughout the homeland.

Unionist Optimism

I do not at all agree with this analysis not because my sentiments and feelings are with the method of dialogue, understanding and persuasion between brothers in settling various issues but because there are objective factors that underline the [need for] continuation of this method, namely:

1. The method of interfighting between the two sections of Yemen has proven its futility and has caused devastating tragedies to the Yemeni people. All are now aware of this fact.

2. Continued communication between the heads of the two sections of Yemen is capable of overcoming any difficulty standing in the way of dialogue and understanding.

3. The continuing proceedings of the unification committees don't mean that these committees have achieved no tangible results. On the contrary, the results have begun to surface, as in the case of the creation of [joint] economic establishments and in the endeavors to reconsider the regulations governing the movement of citizens between the two sections of Yemen.

4. The solidarity of the Yemeni national movement and the ousting of the adolescent left from among its ranks has enabled this movement to steer matters wisely and flexibly.

5. The holding of the second conference of Yemeni Writers and Authors Union in San'a' on 10 November 1980 and the participation by North Yemen's prime minister in the conference as representative of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and by South Yemen's minister of culture as representative of President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. Describing the holding of this conference, Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Muqalih, the well-known Yemeni poet and man of letters, has said:

"Its convocation has dispersed the ominous clouds and has replaced them by greater elements of optimism. Disagreement is no longer the way to disunity and division among the thinkers and intellectuals of the one homeland who represent the people's conscience and the people's munition for a united future."

6. The preparations for holding a journalists conference throughout the Yemeni homeland and making the initial preparations for unifying the other professional and social organizations.

Briefly, considering that the method of dialogue and understanding between the two sections of Yemen prevailed in 1980, thus creating a state of relative stability and calm in Yemen, then could 1981 be the year of realizing the Yemeni unity?

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